

**THE TIMES**  
1785-1985  
**TOMORROW**

**Ratings war**  
How Roland Rat saved TV-am and joined Auntie in time for Christmas

**Europe reigns**  
1985 - the season when America lost its dominion of the golf course

**Guiding hand**  
Research chief calls for a Ministry of Science

**Suburban life**  
A S Byatt reviews Stevie, biography of Stevie Smith

**Portfolio**

There were five winners of The Times £2,000 Portfolio prize yesterday. Mr K. S. Sayers of Barwick-in-Elmet, Leeds, Miss Doreen Ginger of Flaxmound, Hertfordshire, Mr John Welch of Halstead, Kent, Mr Arthur Collett of Ruislip, Middlesex, and Mr Charles Blacklock of Monmouth, Gwent, each receive £400. Portfolio list, page 16; how to play, information service, back page

**High-power drug hits US streets**

A synthetic drug 3-methyl-ecstasy - thousands of times more powerful than heroin - is circulating in California, the US Drug Enforcement Agency said. A Du Pont chemist, Mr Michael Hovey, aged 33, has been arrested and accused of producing and distributing the compound.

**School talks fail**

Informal talks between unions and employers in the English and Welsh teachers' pay dispute ended last night without settlement after the employers said they could not improve a 6.9 per cent offer. The two sides will meet again early in the new year, and industrial action will continue. *Parliament, page 4*

**Tory protest**

Mr Robert Rhodes James MP has resigned as Conservative liaison officer because of what he called the Government's "intolerable squeeze" on university finances.

**Guardian hit**

Publication of *The Guardian* was abandoned last night as the dispute involving editorial assistants' pay continued. On Monday night management served writs on staff involved in unofficial action which had affected production.

**TV complaints**

Television viewers offended by violence in BBC programmes have been invited to send in detailed complaints to the director-general, Mr Alasdair Milne. *Page 3*

**Tax Bill revived**

President Reagan succeeded in reviving the moribund tax reform Bill, but even if approved by the House of Representatives, it faces further hurdles in the Senate. *Page 5*

**Blockade ends**

Dutch lorry drivers called off a blockade paralyzing roads and border crossings after employers won a court order banning the action.

**Tin blow**

The prospect of a tin market free-for-all in which prices could crash drew nearer after France and West Germany blocked an EEC agreement on the crisis. *Page 13*

**Longer Henley**

Because of the rising number of entries, Henley Royal Regatta will take place over five days for the first time next year. *Page 18*

**Lendl switch?**

Ivan Lendl, the Czechoslovak tennis player who is the world's number one for 1985, may apply for US citizenship. *Page 20*

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## Heseltine throws down gauntlet on Westland deal

● Mr Michael Heseltine is to appeal to backbenchers of all parties in order to put pressure on his Cabinet colleagues over Westland helicopters

● He wants to persuade the Cabinet that Westland's proposed acceptance of an American-backed rescue package is against the national interest

● Mr Leon Brittan was accused of misleading the Commons on the issue and playing along with a backdoor attempt to squeeze European helicopter capability

● The Prime Minister told the Commons that the choice was down to the Westland board and its shareholders, bankers and auditors

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has decided with extraordinary audacity to appeal to backbench MPs on both sides of the Commons to put pressure on his Cabinet colleagues over the future of Westland helicopter.

His immediate purpose is to get a full discussion by the Cabinet of where the national interest lies.

As a first move in a campaign which has started MPs by its determination he will meet members of the all-party Commons defence committee in a closed session today.

His purpose is to persuade them to his conviction that Westland's proposal to accept a rescue package from Sikorsky and Fiat is against the national interest, and that the all-European solution which he helped put together must be considered seriously, both by Westland and the Government.

Mr Heseltine's advocacy of the "European" solution has so far been blocked by two elements: the scepticism of the Westland board, who have so far seen no merit in it; and the unwillingness of the Government, most notably of the Prime Minister, to take or express a collective view.

Mrs Thatcher, with the strong support of Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has shown herself extremely wary of government involvement in a company with vast debts and an empty order book.

In theory, Mr Heseltine has a clear right to bring his concerns to Cabinet. In practice, Mrs Thatcher, as chairman, can block full discussion and so far appears to have done so.

Mr Heseltine, with uncommon boldness, is enlisting the backbenches to help him out-flank her.

So far the Prime Minister's response has been plegmatic. Her view of the Defence Secretary's pressure was said yesterday to be that it was "unorthodox, but in order".

Mr Heseltine's activity yesterday was fired by resentment of Mr Brittan's report to the House on Monday.

Mr Brittan conveyed to MPs the impression that the Government had examined and rejected the case for a rescue by the European consortium, which includes British Aerospace, Aerospatiale, Agusta and Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blom.

The case has not been considered by the Cabinet. Mr Heseltine is insisting that it should be.

If he can get a hearing he will argue that to leave the fate of Britain's sole helicopter-maker to market forces would be not only foolish but an abandonment of established practice in defence procurement.

He will seek to show that the European offer, which Westland regard as flimsy, is substantial and would guarantee finance, orders and work for the company.

He will argue also that his European rescue plan simply brings into the field of helicopters the European collaboration in aircraft procurement, which has long been the Government's established policy.

The Ministry of Defence was astonished to hear Mr Brittan say on Monday that it would be "a substantial extension" of agreed policy. Defence officials tried but failed to have this phrase amended.

In case Mr Heseltine fails to deploy his arguments in Cabinet, he means to rehearse them before the select committee today.

It was said on Mr Heseltine's behalf yesterday that he has no wish, as some of his Cabinet critics have complained, to put pressure on the Westland board. He recognizes that his preferred plan for the company has been produced very late in the day.

But he wants to be sure that the company and its shareholders are fully aware that they have a choice.

He would hope also to persuade the Cabinet to declare a preference for his European plan and not to remain wholly aloof.

If the Cabinet fails to do what he thinks is its duty, then he is looking to the House of Commons to perform that function.

## Brittan accused by critics of 'misleading Commons'

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Senior Government sources yesterday accused Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, of misleading the Commons and the public over the bid by United Technologies owners of US firm Sikorsky, and Fiat for a substantial stake in Westland helicopter manufacturers.

"That charge was categorically denied by the department of Trade and Industry last night. But the authoritative sources said it was "scandalous that Mr Brittan should play along with an American offer to squeeze European helicopter capability, and that Westland should refuse to divulge critical information to potential European contenders for a holding in the company."

One source said that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, had won the backing of every cabinet sub-committee he had attended on the issue; arguing that the Europeans should be allowed to make a counter-offer.

Some who attended those meetings disagreed.

It was said that he had won the argument, even persuading normally "dry" opponents, in the face of hostility from both the Prime Minister and Mr Brittan. It is understood that the next weapon in Mr Heseltine's armoury could well be a forecast of the British jobs that could be put at risk by the US bid.

A senior source said "these silly doubts appeared to believe the Americans when they gave assurances for the future standing of Westland." He argued that Westland would inevitably go the same way as Ford and other British manufacturers dominated by the Americans.

## Pension penalties for pit strikers cause deadlock

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Pay talks between the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board ended in deadlock yesterday as a dispute over proposed pension fund penalties for strikers.

The board management offered the union an increase worth 5.9 per cent, which has already been agreed by the rival National Union of Democratic Mineworkers, with a clause on pensions which the miners' executive refused to accept.

The coal board's proposal would mean that those who took part in the year-long strike should be paid a lower pension because of a shortfall in their contributions. If they sought full entitlement they would be called on to make up their contributions deficit over five years.

If the miners' pension fund trustees accepted the board's plan it would, in addition, cover all future industrial action. In the past, the fund has not taken industrial action to account when calculating payments.

That element in the offer, together with an announcement on Monday might that pitmen who worked during the strike would receive an attendance allowance of up to £100, is part of the board's campaign against militancy.

Continued on back page, col 1

## Lloyd's names offered £13m settlement

Lloyd's names including Miss Virginia Wade, Mr Lester Piggott, the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Soames have been offered £13.4 million compensation to settle claims arising from the Alexander Henderson scandal.

The scandal broke in 1982 when it was discovered that \$55 million (£40 million) of Henderson group funds were missing. Alexander Henderson, a former Services, the American insurance broker which bought \$20 million in 1982, has recovered \$20 million of the missing money.

The offenders were dealt with in Lloyd's internal disciplinary proceedings earlier this year. *Page 13*

## New York braced for Mafia warfare

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

More gunfire is expected after the street killing of America's most powerful gang boss. The murder of "Big Paul" Castellano removed the head of the city's largest Mafia family and opened the prospect of a vicious power struggle to replace him.

The death of the "godfather", on East 46th Street in midtown Manhattan, was a bloody and shocking episode in keeping with the Mafia tradition of regicide, in which ambition, vengeance and a spirit of ruthless cohesiveness in the sudden "rab out".

Mr Castellano, who was in his early 70s, preferred the mild businessman look. He lived the life of a quiet millionaire at his mansion on Sutton Island, New York. Until his death his greatest exposure to publicity was at one of the three important Mafia trials being held in the Federal courthouse in Manhattan. He was one of the star defendants. The reason why he was sprayed with bullets can only be in the realm of speculation. Some policemen think his murder could have been the outbreak of warfare between New York five leading Mafia gangs, known as families. More likely, it was part of a battle within the clan, a younger man getting rid of a king he thought had reigned long enough.

Not only did the bullets kill the godfather, they also killed Thomas Bilotti, aged 45, who was Mr Castellano's bodyguard, manager and possible successor.

Blood spilling on the pavement yesterday marked the site of a typical and sordid underworld spectacle. It has been seen many times in real life and films.

Mr Castellano's reign ended outside Sparks Steak House, where he was a regular diner. "He was always welcome," the restaurateur said respectfully. "We treated him like any other celebrity."

Detectives want to know who, if anyone, Mr Castellano had arranged to meet at the steak house. It was the rush hour as Mr Bilotti eased his new black Lincoln Continental into a no-parking towaway zone outside the restaurant. As he got out, dressed alike in fawn trenchcoat and black fur hat, stepped briskly towards them.

They pulled out automatic pistols and shot each man six times in the head and body, then ran away and got into a rented car which sped south down Second Avenue.

Mr Castellano's half-smoked cigar and the tinted glasses, which helped to give him a private air, fell beside him as he crumpled to the pavement. Mr Bilotti lay stretched on his back under the bright lights of Manhattan.

Detectives think the shootings were the inevitable outcome of tensions that have been growing in the Gambino family for several years; and there is a lot of power and money at stake. A report by New York police two years ago described the Gambino group as the largest and most influential criminal organization in New York, with 250 full members and more than 400 associates.

Mr Castellano became boss in 1976 on the death, from natural causes, of his cousin and brother-in-law, Carlo Gambino, the family founder.

He had his rivals within the clan, but was protected by his own williness and by Aniello



The Prime Minister laying a basket of flowers on the memorial to the three police officers who died in the Harrods bombing two years ago yesterday, and (below) the card expressing her gratitude.

## Ulster resignations herald January poll

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The people of Ulster will give their verdict next month on the Anglo-Irish agreement after the mass resignation yesterday of the 13 Ulster Unionist MPs, including Mr Enoch Powell, remaining in the Commons.

In an unprecedented parliamentary event, the Commons passed a motion which will allow a mini general election to take place in 13 Northern Ireland constituencies, almost certainly on January 23.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and his deputy Mr Peter Robinson, resigned after the Commons debate on the Anglo-Irish accord.

Yesterday the 11 Official Ulster Unionists, led by Mr James Moynihan, were appointed in rapid succession to the ancient stewardships of the Chiltern Hundreds and the Manor of Northstead, thus resigning their seats.

In the afternoon, at the opening of business in the Commons, Sir Peter Emery, Conservative MP for Honiton and chairman of the all party Procedure Committee, moved a motion which will allow the writs for the by-elections to be issued on January 3 when the House is in recess.

He did so after consultations with the Government and with the Unionists, who because of the decision to resign en masse could not move the writs themselves.

Sir Peter made clear later that the hope and expectation was that the by-elections would take place on January 23.

He said: "I have a specific role in trying to ensure that procedural matters are dealt with as sensibly and reasonably as possible. I am in a neutral position. This qualifies for the Guinness Book of Records. We have never had 15 writs moved at one time before."

As the by-election campaign gets under way the belief of the Unionists is that all their representatives will be re-elected, giving renewed force to their campaign against the agreement despite the Prime Minister's determination not to be moved by their tactics.

Attention will inevitably focus on the performances of Mr Powell, who defeated the Social Democratic Labour Party candidate by only 458 votes in Down South at the 1983 election. He will be helped this time by the fact that no Democratic Unionist candidate will be standing against him, but a tight contest is expected.

There will be particular interest in the performance of the nationalist candidates in Mid-Ulster and Newry and Armagh.

Alarm on assurance, page 2

## Slanging match mars debate on bank controls

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday announced that he planned to make it a criminal offence for bankers knowingly or recklessly to mislead Bank of England supervisors.

But the impact of his Commons statement on a Treasury White Paper on Banking Supervision was quickly marred by a slanging match between Mr Brian Sedgmore and himself over the role of the governor of the Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton.

Mr Sedgmore, the Labour MP who has campaigned for an inquiry into Johnson Matthey Bankers' fraud allegations, said that the statement arose from "the wanton and negligent behaviour" of Mr Leigh-Pemberton. He then asked: "How can anyone completely trust a system of supervision organized by that appalling deadbeat?"

The Chancellor, reading from a prepared script, said that Mr Sedgmore was the "biggest fraud so far exposed".

It was not until after the fraud squad had been called in last July that Mr Sedgmore had begun "his scurrilous, McCarthyite smear campaign", Mr Lawson said. "To describe him as a pest would be unfair to pests."

Mr Sedgmore shouted across the Chamber: "Snivelling little git", an unparliamentary remark which the Speaker said he preferred not to hear.

In his statement, the Chancellor said that he planned to go beyond the recommendations of Mr Leigh-Pemberton's review of banking supervision, formed in the wake of Johnson Matthey Bankers' near-collapse last year, creating a new, statutory Board of Banking Supervision.

The criminal law would be injected to bolster the system because one clear lesson of JMB was that supervisors could not do their jobs "unless they have adequate, accurate and timely information".

Mr Roy Hattersley, for the Opposition, said that the statement was "grossly inadequate" and he wondered why the Board of Banking Supervision, to be chaired by the governor of the Bank, had to remain "inside the City's own club".

The City of London is facing its biggest crisis of the century because of a wave of major crimes in its institutions, the Shadow Chancellor, Mr Roy Hattersley said last night.

Speaking in London, he said the reason for the crisis was "obvious".

Mr Hattersley, who is also deputy Labour leader, said: "The success of the City depends on experience, expertise and integrity - and its integrity is now in doubt."

Continued on back page, col 6

## White Paper outlines tighter supervision

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

A new Board of Banking Supervision is to be set up within the Bank of England under the White Paper on banking supervision. The proposals lay down a new legislative framework to strengthen bank supervision.

The proposals, however, follow the current supervisory system with the Bank of England at its centre, rather than setting up a separate supervision body as many other countries have.

The proposals have been reached after close consultation with the Bank of England and the banking community, but there was no previous suggestion of a supervisory board.

The board will be set up with the governor, deputy governor and executive director of the Bank as members. The governor will also appoint five outside members - three bankers, one accountant and one lawyer - on to the board.

The board will advise the governor on supervisory matters and on the development of the supervisory system, but he has powers to overrule the board's decisions as long as he then notifies the Chancellor.

As expected, the White Paper abolishes the status of licensed deposit taker - institutions too small to be full banks. Instead, institutions with £5 million or more of issued share capital will qualify as banks. Smaller authorized institutions with over £1 million in net assets will not be allowed to use "bank" in their name but may still describe themselves as banks. Both banks and authorized institutions will be supervised under the same rule.

The White Paper proposes statutory limits on bank lending to non-bank clients. The proposals also give bank auditors the power to report directly to the Bank of England without their clients' knowledge in "exceptional" circumstances. This is likely to mean in cases of suspected fraud or gross irresponsibility by bank directors.

The White Paper also gives the Bank of England more rights to information from banks, and the power to pass relevant information to government departments other than the Inland Revenue.

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Kenneth Fleet, page 13  
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## £12m profit increase for BA

British Airways moved another stage towards its likely privatization in June when it announced a £12 million rise in pretax profit to £201 million for the six months to September.

The increase came after allowing for an estimated £9 million cost of grounding Boeing 737s after the Manchester airport disaster last August and loss of the use of a Tristar that overran the runway at Leeds-Bradford airport. Passengers switched to other airlines as a result.

Lord King, the chairman of British Airways, said that increased prices for aviation fuel, despite the weakness of crude oil prices could cost the airline £50 million a year.

Kenneth Fleet, page 13



# Disciplinary action threat as TUC tightens rules on sole-union deals

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Senior union leaders yesterday significantly tightened Trades Union Congress rules on single-union deals which are usually linked to strike free agreements but which could be outlawed if future deals were found to be against the interests of unions.

A meeting of the TUC's employment policy committee agreed to re-draw one of the key Bridlington principles which prevent unions poaching members, and all unions which strike single union deals that cut across the interests of unions already in a plant or company could face disciplinary action in future.

## Softer view taken on labour law

By Our Labour Correspondent

Fresh evidence emerged yesterday of the trade union movement's more accommodating approach to Labour law when the largest union voted overwhelmingly to change its election rules and the TUC agreed a blueprint for possible legislation by a future Labour government.

A special rules conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union voted by 147-2 to introduce a new electoral system for the 14 seats on its executive allocated to trade groups, which brings the union into line with the Government's employment legislation.

That decision and the agreement by the TUC's employment policy committee to hold a special consultative conference on March 17 to establish a framework of labour laws and union rights for discussion with the Labour Party came within 24 hours of the TUC deciding that it needed to change its policy of opposition to accepting government funds for ballot.

The TUC suggestions for the future of employment legislation are contained in a document being sent out for discussion by the affiliated unions. Key sections deal with removing the use of the law from industrial disputes, setting

action against the union for offering such a deal to Mr Eddy Shah's proposed new national newspaper.

The only dissenting voice at yesterday's meeting was that of Mr Eric Hammond, the electricals union general secretary, who declared that the move to ban single union deals would be against the long-term interests of the trade union movement.

Mr Hammond's union has been in the forefront of signing such deals mainly in the so-called "sunrise" industries with Japanese and United States owned high technology companies.

The union has also indicated that it would consider signing a similar deal for *The London Post*, which is to be launched by Mr Rupert Murdoch, head of News International, next March.

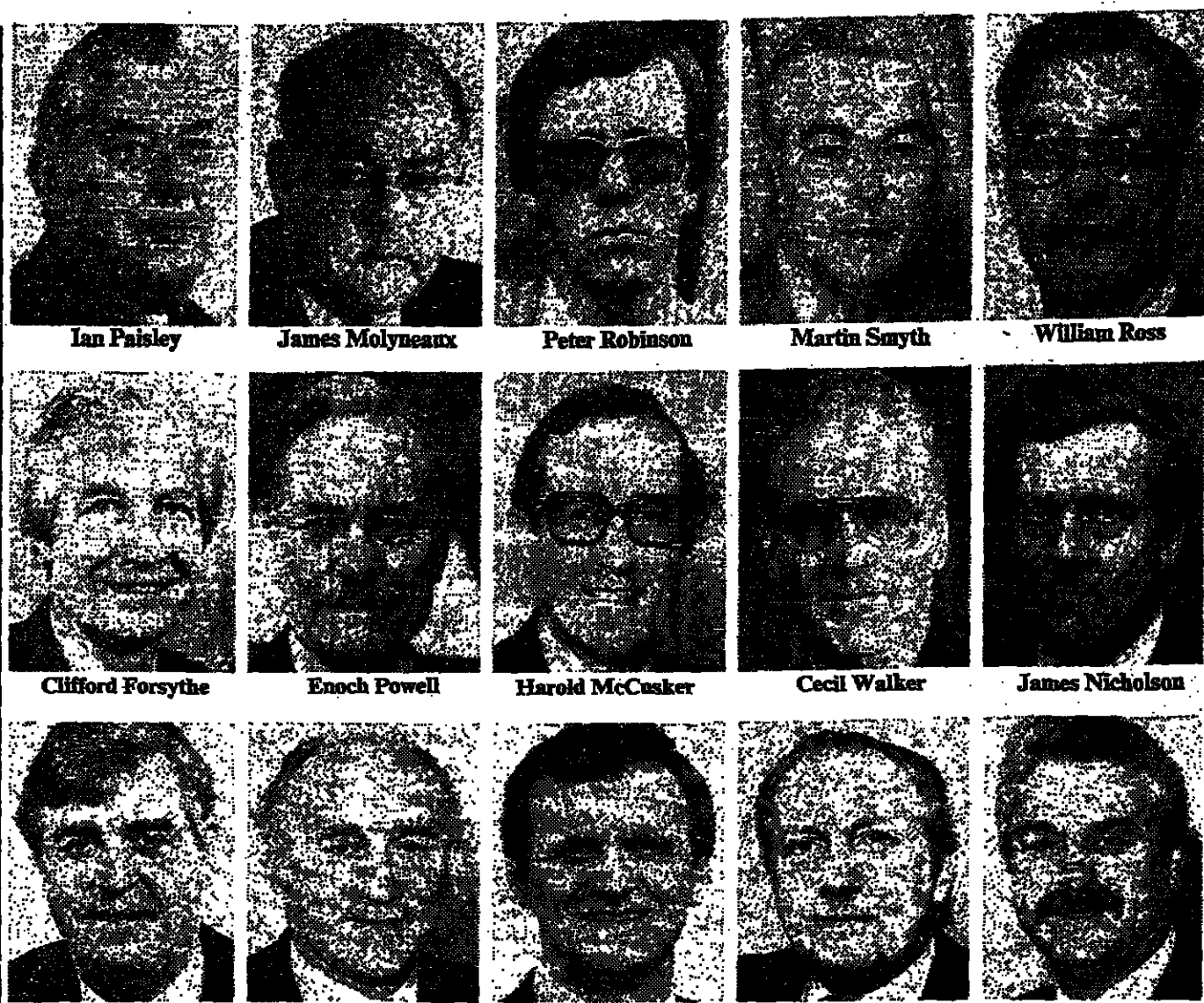
Hostility to single-union deals was increased by the electricals' actions last year at the Hitachi plant in South Wales, where it won sole bargaining rights, with the effect that five other unions in the television plant lost their recognition rights.

A TUC disputes committee rejected the five unions' claim that the deal should be scrapped, but also warned the electricals to pay more attention in future to the interests of other unions.

The TUC leaders yesterday amended slightly the original Congress House proposal for the new rule by making an addition. This said that the interests of all unions, whether or not they had negotiating rights in a plant, must be taken into account and the agreement of those unions must be won before a single union deal can be struck.

The relatively new procedure of granting sole bargaining rights has been used largely by companies who have demanded drastic changes in working practices as a price for continued survival of their businesses.

However, another notable deal was struck by the engineering workers' union, AUEW, for the proposed Nissan assembly plant at Washington, Tyne and Wear.



## Alarm over assurance to Unionists

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Prime Minister last night alarmed nationalist leaders in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland by telling Unionists that they could end the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference by reaching agreement on a form of devolved government for the province.

Mrs Thatcher's attempt to reassure Unionist opinion has again signalled the different perception on the Anglo-Irish deal, and is sure to cause serious concern within the Irish Republic.

Although it is accepted that if a devolved government were set up matters delegated to it would no longer come under the ambit of the conference, the Irish Republic and the province's Social Democratic and Labour Party insist that it will continue to have a big role.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish prime minister, and the SDLP say the conference would remain in existence to concern itself with security matters, human rights and matters of identity.

Once again an effort by the British government to assure Unionists of their position within the United Kingdom may well have signalled another public dispute over the exact terminology of the agreement.

In an interview in yesterday's *Belfast Telegraph*, Mrs Thatcher admitted that Unionist opposition to the agreement had been much worse than expected but she insisted she would not retreat from the deal. "If I backed down from doing what I believe to be right, then I would be a

different person," she said.

She made it clear that she views the agreement as a means of improving security and as a way of causing a rethink of traditional attitudes with the aim of achieving some form of devolved government.

"The people of Northern Ireland can get rid of the inter-governmental conference by agreeing to devolved government. I don't think we can go on for ever accepting that nothing can be done, we just can't," she said in the interview.

## Sheffield council ban on Alliance overruled

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

The Liberal-SDP Alliance yesterday won two significant High Court victories in its campaign to open up local government decision-making.

Mr Justice Woolf ruled that Sheffield city council Labour leaders were not allowed to ban Mr David Chadwick, the council's Liberal group leader, from budget sub-committee meetings.

The meetings, attended by council officers, were being used by the Labour group to plan their strategy for fighting rate-capping, and were therefore working out "what should be the policy of a group of members of the council, rather than what should be the policies of the council," the judge said.

At the same ruling Mr Justice Woolf also said that Conservative and Labour leaders on Hyndburn council, Lancashire, were wrong to exclude Mr John Strain, the Social Democrat leader, from meetings where important decisions were taken.

The two rulings together demonstrate that practices widespread among ruling Conservative and Labour groups aimed at cutting off the Alliance from influence on local government power are illegal.

In Mr Chadwick's case the council, led by Mr David Blunkett, claimed that the Liberal leader's presence would libel the council.

But the judge ruled that the Labour group was using the key sub-committee, with the assistance of officials, to work out a policy which is intended to have adopted through its majority control, by allowing the sub-committee to be used for party political purposes, to justify the need for confidentiality and secrecy which would not otherwise arise," the judge said.

Law Report, page 20

## Peugeot 'first' in full production

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The new Peugeot 309, the first British-built car to bear the Peugeot lion symbol, is now in full production at Ryton, the company's plant near Coventry. It goes on sale early next year.

The Escort-sized hatchback, assembled largely from French-made components, carries the company's hopes of improving on the small profits of the last two years after losses totalling more than £200 million in the previous five.

The 309 is aimed at the big British fleet market but improvements in quality at Ryton could see it break new ground in European export markets.

Mr Geoffrey Whalen, managing director of Peugeot Talbot UK, said: "Our quality is now the highest in the Peugeot group, which gives us a good chance of selling in tough, demanding Continental markets."

Production is now at 700 cars a week, with a target of 1,000 by February. The 309 is a five-door hatchback with a choice of engines from 1.1 to 1.6 litres; it will compete with the Ford Escort, Vauxhall Astra, and Austin Maestro. Prices are expected to range from £4,600 to £6,300.

## Uproar as 12 convicted on word of supergrass

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Uproar broke out in a Northern Ireland court yesterday as a judge convicted 12 men of murder and another 12 of terrorist offences on the word of an Irish National Liberation Army supergrass.

Defendants shouted abuse at Mr Justice Carswell. Relatives in the public gallery at Belfast Crown Court clapped and shouted until police moved in to clear the court of members of the public.

The 27 defendants left the dock with most of them ordering lawyers to withdraw for the rest of the trial.

The trouble erupted as he convicted three men of the murder of an RUC reserve constable four years ago. Patrick FitzPatrick, aged 24, from Belfast, jumped to his feet in the heavily guarded dock as he was found guilty and shouted that the trial of the defendants on the word of an INLA supergrass, Mr Harry Kirkpatrick, had been a farce.

After he was ordered from the dock the remaining 26 defendants began to leave and Robert Tohill, aged 27, from Belfast said they would all go on hunger strike to prove their innocence.

Mr Justice Carswell had found Gerard Steenson aged 28, the former officer com-

manding the Belfast brigade of INLA, guilty of the murder of five members of the security forces and a member of the "loyalist" para-military Ulster Defence Association.

Another eight men, Patrick FitzPatrick, aged 24, Thomas Power, aged 31, a brigade intelligence officer and Northern Ireland's longest serving remand prisoner, Robert Tohill, Martin O'Reilly, aged 23, John McFadden, aged 28, Patrick McArdrey, aged 27, officer commanding in the Lower Falls, Emmanuel Conway, aged 29, officer commanding Unity Flats and Stephen Downey, aged 25, also were convicted of murder.

Twenty-one of the men named by Kirkpatrick, plus another man who pleaded guilty, have now had judgement passed on them on a series of terrorist charges including murder, conspiracy to murder, attempted murder and possession of firearms in Belfast and Armagh between 1980-82.

Twenty-seven defendants have been on trial on a series of charges relating to 42 terrorist incidents in one of the province's supergrass hearings. Mr Justice Carswell will continue his judgement today.

## Back benefit payout after lodging ruling

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Thousands of unemployed young people are to be paid arrears benefit after Mr Norman Fowler's defeat last week in the Court of Appeal over the Government's board and lodging regulations.

Mr Anthony Newton, Minister of State for Social Security, announced yesterday that the Government would not appeal to the House of Lords over decision comes after the Court of Appeal made it plain it would refuse leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Lawyers last week estimated that millions of pounds in back benefit are likely to be owing to claimants caught by the new rules introduced last April which set new ceilings on the amounts that could be paid for board and breakfast accommodation. Mr Newton said yesterday: "We shall take steps to identify from our records those cases in

which arrears may be due because we did not meet the full charge, and to pay these arrears as soon as possible."

But last night Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, whose constituent Mr Kim Cotton was the subject of the test case, said ministers appeared to be saying they would only check records back to July, when the High Court first ruled the regulations unlawful.

Yesterday's announcement only affects payments between last April and November, but Mr Field said ministers seemed "naively confident" that new regulations now in place were themselves lawful.

Mr Field said: "The only safe way for the Government to move is to seek primary legislation on this matter, not to use regulations. Ministers would have support from both sides of the House for that if the legislation also dealt with real abuse of the system which mainly comes from landlords."

Parliament, page 4

## Community award panel picks 33 sites to visit

By Charles Knevitt, Architecture Correspondent

The assessors of *The Times*/Royal Institute of British Architects Community Enterprise Scheme yesterday selected 33 projects to be visited early in the new year as second stage entries for an award or commendation.

The entries include self-help housing projects in Liverpool, London and Glasgow; job creation centres in Burnley, Newcastle and Croydon; Oxfordshire; community facilities in Birkenhead, Glasgow and Hadden Bridge; and environmental improvements, urban farms and town development in Kirkby, London, Cardiff and Ware, Hertfordshire.

Nearly 200 projects were received and the assessors had a difficult task in selecting those to go through to the second stage. The institute is notifying entrants this week.

The Prince of Wales is patron of the scheme which was launched in September. Mr Rod Hackney, a community archi-

tect in Macclesfield, is chairman of the panel of eight assessors. The aim of the scheme is to encourage community enterprise and initiative in commissioning, designing, managing and, in some cases, helping to build projects. Prizes will be given to those which are "the most imaginative, viable and need-fulfilling."

Among the five housing schemes is Lea View House, in Hackney, east London, where tenants participated in the refurbishment of their flats by the architects Hunt Thompson Associates and the refurbishment of the Avalon tenement blocks in Glasgow.

The Morlake Working Community in London is one of several managed workshops, in this case finding a new use for existing buildings which were due for demolition. Community Call in, Bedford, impressed the assessors for the way in which modest resources were used to respond to local needs.

## Press 'unfair to secrets investigator'

Counsel representing the military investigators at the inquiry into the Cyprus secrets trial was critical of the Press yesterday.

Mr Robin Grey, QC, said his clients had almost "given up hope" of fair reporting of the inquiry into whether confessions produced at the central Criminal Court trial had been lawfully extracted.

Mr Grey complained about the "innuendo" in a report of Monday's proceedings that Flight Sergeant Barry Mason had stumbled over his words when reading his statement to the inquiry.

He said the statement had been dictated by Mr Mason to a solicitor whose handwriting was illegible. "There was nothing sinister in it," Mr Grey said, adding that Mr Mason wore tinted, not dark glasses.

He added that it was incorrect to say the jury at the secrets trial had acquitted the servicemen because they believed their claims that the confessions had been illegally extracted.

The trial judge, Mr Justice Stocker, and a majority at an earlier hearing had said there had been no pressure to make false confessions, Mr Grey said.

He also criticised the description of Mr Mason, which he said was first used by the *Mirror*, as "Mr Nasty". He said the inquiry had "totally discredited" the nickname.

Mr Grey said the report of Monday's proceedings in *The Times* and *The Guardian* was "probably" from the Press Association. He complained that *The Times* had incorrectly reported on previous occasions that the Central Criminal Court jury had believed the servicemen's confessions had been unlawfully extracted.

He hoped both newspapers would "correct the reports, which were very much to Mr Mason's detriment, that he wore dark glasses and stumbled over his words".

Counsel also said that Mr Mason had only been branded "Mr Nasty" by the *Mirror*. That report, he said, had been "totally discredited and shown to be thoroughly unfair and untrue".

Flight Lieutenant Michael Hudson, a senior RAF personnel officer in Cyprus, who acted as welfare officer for Senior Aircraft Officer Jones when he was under arrest, said the airman never complained of ill-treatment.

For the first two weeks SAC Jones was under close arrest in solitary confinement, banned from speaking to anyone other than the investigators.

## Method of funding health for review

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is to review the system for deciding how much money each health region gets a year, after mounting protests from inner-city health authorities that the present formula is unfair and damaging.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced that the NHS Management Board is to review the operation of the so-called RAWP formula, which, since its introduction in 1977, has progressively taken money away from the four Thames regions to boost spending in under-funded regions.

At the same time he announced spending for the 14 regions for next year, based on the existing formula. The allocations means that in real terms, after allowing for the fall effect of this year's phased pay awards for doctors and nurses, the four Thames regions will have no increase, but the other regions all see real increases of up to 2.3 per cent. Capital spending is to rise by 4.5 per cent.

Mr Fowler said that since RAWP was introduced "substantial progress" had been made in distributing spending more fairly across the country. "But as regions move closer to their targets it becomes increasingly important that the targets themselves are a reasonably accurate measure of need."

At present the RAWP formula is based on population, weighted to take account of age, sickness and other factors. Inner-city health authorities in London, and some others, have attacked it for ignoring the special needs of inner cities where social stress is higher and housing conditions poorer.

The formula takes no account of GPs' services where they are poor, which can impose additional burdens on health authorities, not of point spending by health and local authorities on community care.

Health authorities have pointed out also that some have plenty of private nursing homes in their area to take elderly patients, who are then supported on social security, while others have few such homes.

Ministers emphasized last night that the review will not be based on the principles of RAWP, which is intended to redress the historic imbalance that has led to regions like Trent and East Anglia getting less than their fair share of resources over the years.

NHS spending 1986-87		
Region	Revenue Capital	Percentage Increase
Northern	6.7	36.8
Yorkshire	5.8	49.5
Trent	7.7	55.1
East Anglia	7.7	42.1
North Thames	5.7	37.0
West Thames	5.7	45.0
SE Thames	5.8	43.6
SW Thames	5.8	33.7
Wessex	7.7	46.6
Oxford	7.3	25.1
South Western	7.0	46.5
West Midlands	8.0	78.5
Mersey	8.0	28.5
North Western	6.4	62.3

\* Before inflation and last effect of this year's pay awards which jointly require 6.7 per cent increase.

## Russians' burglary protest

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is investigating burglaries at the home of the new head of MI6 and the offices of *Soviet Weekly* in west London.

Both break-ins, at the weekend, were described by police yesterday as purely criminal, with no political or terrorist overtone. The Soviet Embassy has formally protested to the Foreign Office.

An alarm alerted police to an intruder in the London home of

## Public inquiry on Harrow temple

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, has ordered a public inquiry into the proposal to build a £5 million Hindu temple complex within view of Harrow School because the site is designated as open land.

The application by the Swaminarayan Hindu Mission has already received planning approval from Brent Borough Council and the Greater London Council.

The name of the new director had been published earlier in *The Sunday Times* and the anti-terrorist branch were called in during the police search.

About £50 in cash was taken from the offices of *Soviet Weekly*, in Rosary Gardens, Earls Court.

## 250,000 more families in 'lesser poverty trap'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

A total of 250,000 more families in low-paid work are to lose 70p or more of each extra £1 they earn as a result of the introduction of Family Credit and cuts in Housing benefit, according to figures from the Department of Health.

Under the new Family Credit, the worst aspect of the poverty trap will be eliminated. The structure of the new benefit means it will be impossible for anyone, as can happen at present, to lose more than £1 for each extra £1 they earn, through having to pay tax at the same time as their benefit is reduced by their higher income. Seventy thousand families are at present in that position.

The effect of the Government's housing benefit cuts, and

the sharp rate at which the new Family Credit is to be withdrawn as income rises, means an extra 250,000 families will be caught in a lesser version of the poverty trap, where over 70p is lost in tax paid and benefit withdrawn as income rises.

Four hundred thousand families will lose between 80p and 90p of each extra £1, and 40,000 families will lose over 90p of every extra pound.

The Government White Paper accepts that "the number of families facing high marginal tax rates will tend to increase" but says this is "a price worth paying" to end the "absurd" position where a family can actually be worse off after earning more.

Parliament, page 4

Mr Kinnoch told her to admit that more money was spent on benefits for the poor, because her policies had made many more people poor.

Mrs Thatcher said that the increase in expenditure would have to be found out of taxation and contributions by ordinary people. The point of the proposals was the direct resources to areas of the greatest need.

Mr Kinnoch wants to take all of the benefits and all of the increases and accept none of the consequences," she said.

there might have to be some losers.

When Mrs Thatcher pointed out that expenditure on social security this year would be £40 billion and that by 1988-89 it would be £46 billion, Mr Kinnoch told her to admit that more money was spent on benefits for the poor, because her policies had made many more people poor.

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## Correction

The Office of Arts and Libraries is to give nearly £8.75 million to museums and galleries on Merseyside, not to the Greater Manchester Museum of Science and Industry as stated yesterday. The Greater Manchester Museum will receive more than £1 million.

## World Books

World Books has no connection with The World Book Club named in early editions yesterday concerning Mr Derek Hutton and Millant.

The Times overseas selling prices: Argentine £10 5p; Australia £10 5p; Canada £10 5p; Channel Islands £10 5p; France £10 5p; Germany £10 5p; Greece £10 5p; Hong Kong £10 5p; India £10 5p; Italy £10 5p; Japan £10 5p; New Zealand £10 5p; Norway £10 5p; Portugal £10 5p; South Africa £10 5p; Spain £10 5p; Sweden £10 5p; Switzerland £10 5p; Taiwan £10 5p; Thailand £10 5p; USA £10 5p; USSR £10 5p; West Germany £10 5p; Yugoslavia £10 5p.

## Police cleared of drug plot

Three policemen based at West End Central police station in London were cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of conspiring to pervert the course of justice by concealing drugs allegedly found in a Soho club raid.

One of them, Sergeant David Bourn, aged 41, was also acquitted of instructing Constable Richard O'Kane that he

had not seen or had on him substances believed to be drugs found in the raid.

Inspector Norman McGowan, aged 35, and Constable Michael Buchanan, aged 23, still face charges of stealing a Metropolitan Police bag containing heroin substances, stationery and other articles. McGowan also faces a charge involving Constable O'Kane.



## Three-quarters of women use contraception and prefer pill, survey shows

By Robin Young

Three-quarters of all women aged 18 to 44 were using some form of contraception in 1983, and only 2 per cent claimed to be going without sex to avoid pregnancy.

The figures come from the 1983 Report on the General Household Survey published today, which for the first time includes a section on contraception. About 20,000 adults living in private households in Britain were interviewed.

The survey is made annually by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys.

It was found that overall the oral contraceptive was the most popular method, with 28 per cent of women in the respondent age group using the pill. More than a fifth (22 per cent) were sterilized or living with a sterilized partner, and for only 13 per cent was the condom the usual method.

The pill was most popular of all among women aged 20 to 24, more than half of whom used it, but while use of contraception generally increased until the age group over 40 was reached, use of the pill declined steeply with age. Only 4 per cent of the women aged 40 to 44 were still using oral contraception.

Sterilization followed the opposite pattern. Two-fifths of women aged 35 to 44, but virtually none under 25, were sterilized or had a sterilized partner.

Sterilization was also rare among single women who were not cohabiting, nearly half of whom were on the pill.

Of the quarter of women aged 18 to 44 who were not using any contraception, about half were not at risk of unwanted pregnancy. Some per cent were already pregnant, or trying to become so, and 3 per cent believed that they were sterile or infertile as a result of surgery or the menopause.

Comparing the GHS data with earlier surveys, the report suggests that there has been a steady increase in the prevalence of sterilization since 1970.

The proportion of married or formerly married women aged between 16 and 39 who were sterilized, or living with a sterilized partner, multiplied six times between 1970 (4 per cent) and 1983 (24 per cent).

The increase in the prevalence of sterilization between 1976 and 1983 was confined to married and formerly married women aged 30 and 44. Sterilization of the woman or her partner was more likely if the more children the woman had had, and if the man was a manual worker or the woman did not have qualifications as high as GCE O level.

Where one of a couple had been sterilized it was as likely to be the man as the woman, but women aged 40 to 44 or with at least three children were more likely to have been sterilized than their partners.

Apart from those who had been sterilized for family planning purposes, 4 per cent of women aged 18 to 44 said that

they would have had difficulty in bearing children.

The survey also shows that there has been a reduction in family size, from 2.91 per household in 1971 to 2.64 in 1982. The proportion of people living alone has increased from 17 per cent to 23 per cent over the same period, and the number of one-parent families from 8 per cent to 13 per cent.

The survey reports that 35 per cent of women now cohabit before marriage. The divorce rate is also going up, if it continues at the present rate one in four couples would divorce before their fifteenth wedding anniversary.

Britain has also become a nation of fitness fanatics, with almost half the adult population regularly taking part in sport of physical activity.

The survey shows that 44 per cent of adults are involved in at least one activity each month.

Almost a third participate in outdoor sports regularly and a quarter take part in indoor activities such as squash, swimming and snooker. Walking attracts 19 per cent regularly including many aged over 60.

Swimming, football and golf are the other most popular outdoor activities while snooker, darts, keep fit and yoga attract the most indoor participants.

Men are more likely than women to be involved in sport: 54 per cent compared with 34 per cent.

General Household Survey 1983, (Stationary Office, £13.70).

## Dangerous changes brought by colds

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Hidden hazards of the common cold and influenza can lead to potentially dangerous changes in human behaviour, researchers said yesterday.

Colds cause clumsiness, while influenza reduces alertness, often to a serious extent, even without sufferers showing symptoms such as coughs and sneezes.

Motorists and operators of industrial machinery who are affected in those ways could be putting themselves and others at risk, Dr Andrew Smith said at a British Psychological Society conference in London.

Dr Smith and Mr Kierian Coyle, psychologists at a Medical Research Council unit at Sussex University, tested volunteers at the council's common cold unit at Salisbury, Wiltshire.

"With the full-blown symptoms of flu, our ability to focus and maintain attention on our job or on dangers around us can be up to 60 per cent impaired."

"The effects of colds are different, but just as disturbing. It is hard for sufferers to control and carry out rapid movements."

Although most people develop the symptoms of colds or influenza two or three times a year, infections without symptoms can occur about once a month, the researchers said, and some loss of efficiency is likely.

Such side effects of minor illnesses often go unrecognized but may have serious consequences, from accidents on the roads, at work or in the home, to impairing the learning abilities of school children.



Bonnie Langford, who stars in *Peter Pan - The Musical* opening at London's Aldwych Theatre on Friday, in flight yesterday, watched (left) by Michael (Martin Harvey) and John (Grant Olding). (Photograph: Suresh Karadia.)

## Stores group may expand property shop chain to 50

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Asda Stores is to increase the number of its property shops as part of an expansion programme.

Five of the shops, one of a number of concessionaire deals being introduced by the firm are open now and the chain could grow to between 40 and 50. Asda has just over 100 stores involved in an expansion programme and 11 super stores are due to open in the next financial year.

The property shops charge a fixed fee of £80. Mortgage, insurance and associated services are also offered. The outlets are franchised as The Property Shop.

Other specialist outlets being added will include discount opticians, pharmacies, hairdressing salons, dry cleaners and travel agencies.

The property shops are in Sheffield, Leicester, Wakefield, Leamington Spa and Bradford.

The Leamington Spa store was the first to incorporate Asda's new look introduced last month. Asda is not giving any indication yet how this store is trading overall but it seems likely that it will be at least 15 per cent above the normal turnover.

Asda's new design is likely to go first into existing south of England stores, an area where the Leeds-based firm is keenest to expand. New colour schemes,

improved customer services, more fresh foods and touches like suspended ceilings and better lighting are included in the changed approach, and their own-label range being expanded as well.

MFI, the furnishings stores specializing in flat-pack furniture, which the group acquired earlier this year, is likely also to get the design treatment as Asda pushes through development plans for the chain.

Decisions have yet to be made but it looks likely that MFI's range will be widened to add items which are more up-market and have wider profit margins.

Lloyds Bank yesterday announced the acquisition of Enlwhistle Green, the eighth largest estate agent group in the country, as the most recent addition to the bank's Black Horse agency chain (Richard Thomson writes).

The addition of Enlwhistle Green's 42 branches, based in Lancashire and Cumbria, brings the total of Black Horse outlets to 236, confirming its position as the largest estate agency group in the country.

Mr Fred Crawley, deputy chief executive of Lloyds, said that the bank was raising the national profile of the agencies and the Black Horse name would take precedence over the name of the individual agency.

## Extra police for JMB fraud check

By Stewart Tandler Crime Reporter

Extra police fraud experts are this week being drafted into the capital to investigate fraud at Johnson Matthey Bankers.

In the next few days five members of Scotland Yard's section of the fraud squad are joining their City colleagues for an inquiry which is expected to take many months.

A total of 30 officers will work full time on the investigation which has also spawned a specialist fraud investigation group at the Director of Public Prosecution's office.

The decision to enlarge the JMB squad was taken last month after City officers led by Det. Chief Supt. Gerry Squares uncovered evidence of fraud on the bank in 1981.

The combined strength of the Yard and City fraud squad is 210 officers and the JMB team will be one of the largest groups formed for some years.

The police inquiry was announced during the summer by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because of "serious, unexplained gaps" in the JMB records.

Since then the collapse of JMB with debts of £248 million last year and its rescue by the Bank of England has been surrounded by claims of a multi-million pound fraud.

## No compensation for dismissed club bouncer

Mr Saad Abdalla, aged 29, a bouncer who was dismissed by The Hippodrome nightclub in London, has failed in his attempt to win compensation.

An industrial tribunal sitting at Chelsea, south-west London, decided yesterday that it had no jurisdiction in the claim because recognized perks and undisclosed expenses made Mr Abdalla's contract of employment illegal.

The tribunal was told that Mr Abdalla received travelling expenses totalling thousands of pounds on top of his £200 a week wage.

Mr Abdalla was dismissed after complaints that he threw a woman across the street, filled a Chinaman with one blow, and insulted club members.

Mr Abdalla, aged 29, of Ingrebourne, near Brentwood, Essex, said that the complaints were "all lies".

Mr Geoffrey Higgs, the tribunal chairman, said: "We find Mr Abdalla was perfectly well aware he was being reprimanded under the counter."

"The Inland Revenue may wish to investigate these matters," he said.

## BBC canvasses complaints

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC is to ask television viewers to send in detailed written complaints about programmes which have given offence because of their violence.

Letters will be studied by Mr Alastair Milne, BBC director-general, and passed to Mr Will Wyatt, the head of documentary features, who heads a committee of senior programme makers responsible for drawing up guidelines for producers.

The corporation was inviting detailed letters rather than sweeping generalizations. Mr Milne said yesterday after a meeting between the heads of the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd.

The subject of television dominated the meeting, and Mr Hurd made clear his view that it will remain a subject of public concern in the future. Satisfying

this concern was the responsibility of the television authorities, Mr Hurd told the meeting, his first with television executives since becoming Home Secretary.

Later he said that the Government still had to decide its attitude towards the private member's Bill sponsored by Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Darnley, which is designed to bring television within the scope of the Obscene Publications Act.

The concern over television violence was widespread and not confined to pressure groups, Mr Hurd said.

There were fears because of the isolated cases of individuals imitating acts of violence, and a more general concern that watching violence could influence the majority.

Research evidence both supported and undermined claims of a link between television

violence and crime, and the case was not proven either way, Mr Hurd said.

It was for the BBC and the IBA to meet rising public concern on the topic, and both organizations had the guidelines and the machinery to fulfil statutory duties on taste.

Mr Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, later described Mr Milne's call for letters from the public as "little more than patronising back-passing designed as a diversionary tactic".

She said "People have been writing to the BBC for years, but have discovered it is like dropping a stone in a bottomless well - you cannot even hear the splash."

The guidelines of both broadcasting organizations were excellent, Mrs Whitehouse said, but they were frequently ignored.

## Warning over comic 'nasties'

By Patricia Clough

Horror comics, games and children's books are creeping into the market in the wake of video "nasties", the Evangelical Alliance claimed yesterday. Although most children's books and games are of a high standard and healthy fantasy is good for children, a "large minority" revel in torture, extreme violence, sex and the macabre and glorify evil, it said.

In a pamphlet *Danger, Children at Play* the Alliance, which represents evangelical churches, organizations and churchgoers of various denominations, cites examples of horrific stories. In *Ghost after Ghost* (Puffin Books) a girl arranges for a ghost to mutilate her baby brother; in a *Scream!* magazine story a boy finds out his mother is a witch and turns her into a frog, and in another story it is implied that a brother and sister have an incestuous relationship (The First Target Book of Horrors, Target).

The publications include graphic descriptions of people being eaten alive, stabbed, poisoned, crushed, burned alive, dismembered and "unsexed". They refer to black magic, the occult and autism, and one book contains a chant to call up the devil.

A scenario for a game, *Man, Myth and Magic*, reads: "To the player approached a Succubus will appear to be the most desirable woman he has ever seen... and probably the most willing since she will offer and provide any type of sexual favour he desires... Each act of love will cost the player in Life Points."

Dr Stuart Checkley, a consultant psychiatrist who advised the Alliance on their



Children's entries to *Scream!* magazine's competition to draw the face of a hooded ghoul named Ghashly.

campaign said: "I have seen a number of adults who have suffered psychological damage because of such material, particularly for instance, after the film *The Exorcist*. If it has an effect on adults it must have an effect on children."

Another adviser, Dr John Tripp, paediatrician and Senior university lecturer on child health said: "It is hard to believe they have no effect. My commonsense view as a paediatrician tells me if children read violent books or see violent videos they are more likely to think and behave in a violent way."

Statistically, it has not been proved that it does affect

children's behaviour but I will not be convinced until someone proves that it does not."

The Alliance says that the publications and games pose "obvious dangers to the physical and emotional safety of children."

Mrs Liz Attenborough, Prof. Tripp's chief editor, director, took the criticism seriously but accused the report of "drastic over-reaction". The *Puffin* books mentioned come from the "Fighting Fantasies" adventure series. More than four million have been sold in Britain and this month's National Book League of Children's best-sellers featured three of the series of 18, she said.

## Scheme to find missing children

The National Children's Home yesterday launched an appeal for £500,000 to establish a scheme aimed at tracing missing children.

The Missing Link scheme will provide a computerized information service listing missing children, giving publicity to help to find them and a mutual contact point for the children to contact parents and relatives.

The NCH hopes a freephone will be provided so that children can contact the scheme, which will be based in London.

Missing Link is part of the home's Children in Danger campaign and the scheme will involve co-operation with Scotland Yard and other agencies tracing and helping missing children.

Last year nearly 1,000 children aged under 14 were reported missing in the London area. According to Scotland Yard only 85 of those children are still unaccounted for, but there are no national figures available.

Mr David Hallam, a spokesman for the NCH, said that Missing Link's priority will be to establish national figures.

"We believe the London figures are just the tip of the iceberg and that there are many more children who are not reported as missing every week throughout Britain."

He said many children will run away at Christmas, causing pain to themselves and their families.

"Other children, sadly, will not be accounted for after they run away. These children will just disappear and are the hardest to trace."

## Students claim big living standard cut

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Student leaders were dismayed yesterday at a double government blow which removes students' entitlement to social security benefits and increases their grants by only 2 per cent next year, well below the level of inflation.

Although the government proposes to plough back £20 million of the £40 million saved from the benefit reforms into the short-term grants, the cost of administering the system is put at £2 million.

From next year, probably from September, it proposes to: ● Remove entitlement to supplementary benefit and unemployment benefit for all full-time students in the short-term grants, whether grant-aided or not; ● Exclude students living in halls of residence from claiming housing benefit; ● Simplify the administration of claims for housing benefit by abolishing reassessment during the year (some students have their reassessments up to six times); and ● Limit payment of housing benefit when students are absent in the long vacation.

Those changes will reduce benefit spending by £40 million. The Government proposes to plough half that back into increased grants. All student grants will be raised by £36 a year for those undergraduates living away from home.

In addition, the allowance under the students' dependants' hardship scheme will be extended. At present all, except single parents, receive payment only during the term time. From next year they will all get it over 52 weeks of the year.

Miss Phillips said the changes were derisory. Wide-ranging cuts had been made under the guise of simplifying the system. Leading article, page 11

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## Inquiry into shot fired by police

By Peter Davenport

The independent Police Complaints Authority is to investigate an incident in which an armed officer responsible for guarding Mr Leon Brittan, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, fired a shot after becoming involved in chasing a burglar suspect.

The inquiry took place last weekend in Leyburn, North Yorkshire, part of Mr Brittan's constituency. The minister was understood to be at his home in Spennithorne, two miles away.

No one was injured and the single shot was fired into the air. Mr Brittan, who retained his Special Branch bodyguard after his move from the Home Office, has armed local officers assigned to him when in North Yorkshire.

Two of the officers were in a car in Leyburn market place when they went to investigate a suspected burglar.

Yesterday, a spokesman for North Yorkshire Police, confirmed the Police Complaints Authority investigation.

A report will be forwarded to the area's chief constable, who will decide if criminal or disciplinary charges are to be brought against the officer.

## Vicar's indecent acts in belfry

A country vicar paid a choirboy aged 10 to take part in indecent acts in the belfry of his church, magistrates at Maidenhead, Berkshire, were told yesterday.

Kenneth Senior, aged 62, former vicar of St. Mary's Church, White Waltham, near Maidenhead, was sentenced to six months' jail suspended for two years after admitting two offences of indecent assault and asking for a further 22 to be taken into consideration.

## Boy's fight death

Robert Bloxham, aged 12, of Newington Close, Southend, Essex, has died after a fight with a boy aged 10 last Friday in a playground at St Nicholas School, Philpott Avenue, Southend.

## Jeweller loses challenge to police on 'no-go' Toxteth

A Merseyside jeweller yesterday lost his legal challenge in the High Court to police policy, which he alleged has turned the riot-torn area of Toxteth in Liverpool into a "no-go ghetto" and safe haven for criminals.

Mr Lawrence Levy had claimed that the policy of the Merseyside Chief Constable, Mr Kenneth Oxford, had led to him losing £40,000 worth of jewels and cash when a police car in hot pursuit of armed robbers was called off when they reached Toxteth.

He had said that it was as if the robbers, who carried out the raid in August in broad

daylight, and a street mob of 50 stone-throwing youths, waiting on the borders of Toxteth, were working together in the knowledge that police policy made it a "no-go" area.

But Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Nolan in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said he could find no grounds in Mr Levy's claim to declare the policy unreasonable or a breach of Mr Oxford's duty to police the area.

It was wrong to say Toxteth was a no-go area, the judge said. The area was policed by a special squad more intensely than ever before. Crime figures

in the area had been reduced and compared favourably with other areas of the country.

He added that "soft" policing in Toxteth had been introduced in accordance with guidelines laid down in Lord Scarman's report after the 1981 Brixton riots.

It was impossible for one policy to be applied universally to all areas and taking into account the conditions in Toxteth, he felt Mr Oxford was justified in adopting such methods. The judge said there was no conceivable doubt, on past experience, that police cars were a "prime target".

He refused to make a declaration to Mr Levy, of Hale Road, Hale Village, Cheshire, that it was unlawful for Mr Oxford to adopt a no-go policy in Toxteth.

The judge dismissed a claim against Mr Oxford for damages for breach of duty and negligence in letting the robbers escape.

Merseyside Police said in a statement after the judgement that the Chief Constable wished to make it quite clear that there was no safe haven for criminals anywhere within the Merseyside Police area. Law report, page 20

## Big orders in US for Amstrad

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

Amstrad, the British computer and home electronics group, has landed a large American contract which could make it one of the most successful exporters of home electronics to the United States.

The United States has been a difficult market for outside manufacturers. The Japanese have thrived there in the last 10 years but British companies in consumer electronics, including Sinclair and Acorn, have had a difficult time.

Amstrad, which launched its new personal computer with terminal and printer in the autumn for £339, has already sold 200,000. It has agreed to supply Sears World Trade, a subsidiary of Sears Roebuck, with 100,000 computers. The first supplies will be delivered to the United States in February.

A portable computer terminal capable of communicating directly with satellites and transmitting telex or telephone messages round the world in seconds has been developed by the International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat). It costs about £4,000, less than a quarter of any equivalent

## Drive to cut Welsh level of drinking

By Tim Jones

The Government is being urged to develop a comprehensive alcohol strategy for Wales to counter the growing incidence of crime work and family problems and deaths caused by excessive drinking in the principality.

Figures compiled by the Health Education Advisory Committee for Wales show that alcohol consumption per person is much higher in Wales than in England.

Average expenditure on alcohol is greater, drink is cheaper, there are more alcohol licences per 100,000 of population and the death rate from cirrhosis of the liver is also higher in Wales.

Welshmen spend more of their household budget on alcohol even though a man in Cardiff drinking three pints of beer a night would be £208 a year better off than his London counterpart.

The committee recommends encouraging the sale of coffee and fruit drinks in public houses, education about alcohol dangers, in schools and the appointment by large companies and organizations of a senior staff member to offer advice to anyone recognized as having an alcohol problem.

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DEESIDE ENTERPRISE TRUST



## Marconi, Marie Curie, Gustav Dalén, Henry Ford. Who's the odd one out?

Grazie, Signor Marconi for your radio.  
Merci, Madame Curie for radium.

Thanks, Henry Ford for your motors. Tack,  
Dr. Gustav Dalén for the Aga cooker.

No, Dr. Dalén is not the odd one out. Yes, he is the only Swede.

He was also, like Guglielmo Marconi and Marie Curie, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist.

You've probably never heard of him, so who was Gustav Dalén? He is the man to whom thousands of seamen owe their lives; because he invented a thing called Dalén's Sun Valve that turns a lightship's lights on by night and puts them out by day, automatically. That's why they gave him the Nobel Prize.

He was the scientist so dedicated to his work that he was blinded in an explosion during one of his experiments, yet he still went on later to complete the experiment.

He was also the man who invented the only cooker in the world that roasts, bakes, boils, stews, steams, simmers, fries, braises, grills, casseroles and toasts, yes toasts (bet you thought an Aga couldn't, didn't you?) perfectly.

More than that, though, what Dr. Dalén did in 1922 was to reinvent the cooker.

He simply couldn't find a cooker in existence to satisfy his exacting scientific standards.

So combining his knowledge of combustion, metallurgy and nutrition with kitchen common sense, he invented the Aga.

Despite the advent of microwaves and fan ovens, there is still nothing in the world that cooks food better than an Aga.

Remembering what a pain it is waiting for the oven to heat up, Gustav Dalén made sure you never have to do that with his Aga. It's ready anytime.

Then, pondering the inscrutable riddle of the boiling-over pan, he came up with a simmering plate big enough to hold three saucepans that won't let them boil over. Ever.

The boiling plate, though, boils a pint of water faster than an electric kettle. It holds three saucepans, too.

More interesting, perhaps, is the fact that our Dr. Dalén just might have been psychic.

Well, can you think of any other cooker that runs throughout the day on cheap rate overnight electricity? Believe us, there isn't one.

To Gustav Dalén, making a cooker run on the principle of stored heat was just the most efficient way to make it. It still is.

But how was he to know the Central Electricity Generating Board would come up with 'night storage' if he wasn't psychic?

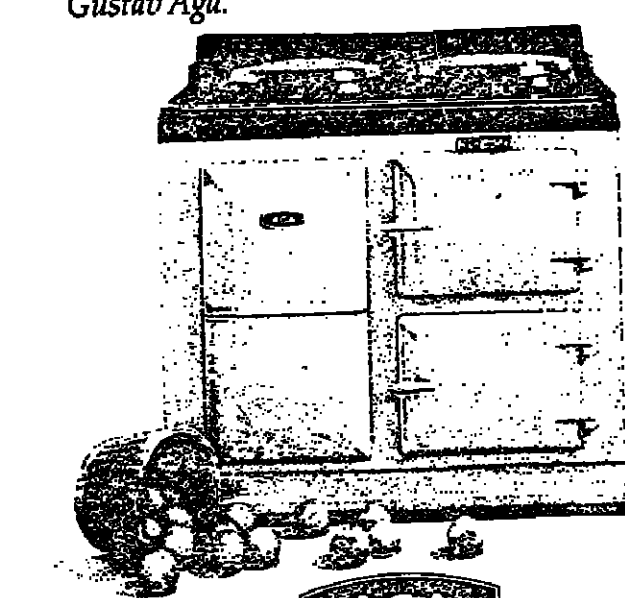
Anyway, since you can now buy an electric Aga (as well as one that runs on natural gas, LPG, oil or solid fuel), it's the only cooker in the world that can run on nothing but off-peak electricity.

Impressed? We thought you might be. If you'd like to see a live Aga, any of our distributors can show you one. Or you can write to us at Aga, Freeport, Kettle, Telford TF1 3BR and we'll tell you all about them.

Oh yes, who is the odd one out? It's Henry Ford. You know him. He's odd because he was no scientist. He was just clever enough to sell cars by the million, saying: "Any colour you like so long as it's black."

Well, you can buy an Aga in green, blue, red, brown, cream, white or even gloriously black vitreous enamel.

Psychic or not, the only really odd thing about Gustav Dalén is that his name wasn't Gustav Aga.



IT'S A WAY OF LIFE.

## Tighter controls for supervision of banking

### THE CITY

Proposals for the tightening of controls of the banking sector were outlined by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a statement to the Commons on his White Paper Banking Supervision.

He said there would be controls contained in two Bills to be considered by Parliament this session, the Financial Services Bill and the Building Societies Bill, and a further Bill to be introduced early in the next session, starting next autumn.

The Chancellor's proposals follow in the wake of the Johnson Matthey Bankers' affair, and a review of banking supervision by a group under the chairmanship of the Governor of the Bank of England.

Mr Lawson said: The proposals contained in the White Paper reflect the vital importance this Government attaches to effective supervision. They build on the findings of the review of banking supervision which I set up exactly a year ago today under the Chairmanship of the Governor of the Bank of England, in the wake of the Johnson Matthey Bankers' debacle.

Six months later, when the Group's report was published, I told the House that the Government was minded to accept its two key recommendations: that both will be implemented.

First, the new legislation will extend to banks the higher supervisory standards which applied only to licensed deposit takers, and not to recognized banks. This means that the so-called two-tier system which I set up to confine the use of the name "bank" to institutions with at least £5 million paid up capital.

Second, the Government will do whatever is needed to permit effective two-way communication between supervisors and bank auditors. If this can be done on the basis of agreed professional guidelines, underpinned by statutory well and good, if not we shall not hesitate to take appropriate further powers.

However, assisted by the extensive consultations that have taken place since I made my statement to the House in June, I have become convinced that it would be right in a number of respects to go beyond the Leigh-Pemberton Committee's recommendations.

The key to better supervision is the organization and ability of the supervisors themselves. Last October the Governor announced changes in the Bank's organization to give supervision a higher priority. To carry this further, he will now set up as soon as possible a new Board of Banking Supervision within the Bank of England.

The new board will be given statutory backing in the forthcoming legislation. It will be chaired by the Governor; a majority of its members will be experienced practitioners from outside the bank of England. This will bring independent outside expertise to bear at the highest level and give more forceful direction to the task of bank supervision. The board's views will be separately identified in the Bank's annual report, which I lay before the House.

Second, supervisors cannot do their jobs unless they have adequate accurate and timely information. This was one clear lesson of the JMB affair. Under the existing legislation, it is not a criminal offence to mislead the supervisors, even if this is done knowingly or recklessly. I propose to make it one - with appropriate penalties.

As I told the House in June, one of the most conspicuous reasons for

JMB's failure was that it was over-committed to a small number of closely-related borrowers. Building on the Leigh-Pemberton group's recommendation, I propose to make it a statutory requirement for banks to notify all such exposures in excess of 10 per cent of their capital base, and all exposures in excess of 25 per cent will require prior notification.

But important as they are, rules of this kind are not enough. Supervisors need to have a better knowledge of individual institutions at first hand. I therefore welcome the steps that have recently been taken to increase the frequency of supervisory visits to banks, on a routine basis as well as where there are grounds for prudential concern.

The nature of banking is changing fast and the supervisory systems has to keep up with it. We cannot prescribe for every eventuality in advance. In particular there is a risk that new forms of deposit-taking may fall through the supervisory net.

I therefore propose to take powers to vary by secondary legislation the definition of deposits and deposit-taking under which the legislation will continue to be structured.

I am also very conscious that banking supervision can no longer be considered in isolation. The Government is urgently considering the supervisory problems posed by the growth of financial conglomerates. One of the most obvious requirements is that those who supervise banks should be able to exchange information with other supervisory authorities.

Legislation this session will make this possible. Changes in the confidentiality requirements in the Banking Act will be secured through the Financial Services and Building Societies Bills this session.

The details of the new and other proposals are in the White Paper. They represent a considered, full and prompt response to the real lessons of the Johnson Matthey Bankers' affair.

The system of supervision we place will be strict, without being a straitjacket. The proposals avoid the pitfalls of unnecessary bureaucracy and administrative upheaval. They also avoid the danger of setting out

the legislative framework I am tidying up is the legislative framework the Labour Party in Government put in place. It is that framework which is inadequate for the speed of action, it took over five years from the secondary banking crisis of 1974 until 1979 to legislate.

I am proposing to legislate more than twice as fast after the Johnson Matthey Bankers' debacle.

The supervisory body has the ultimate power to revoke the licence of any bank to take deposits and that is a profound sanction. Sir William Clark Croydon South, C: Flexibility between auditors and supervisors is intended to ensure that any misdeed, whether a bank or depositing bank, will immediately be recognized. Will the movement of information be from supervisors to auditors and not the other way round? That will ensure that where an investigation is necessary, it will be speedy and accurate and this should be welcomed.

The essential thing is to ensure that the integrity of the City is maintained. Mr Lawson: He is quite right. It is an entirely new departure, this business of communication between supervisors and auditors. Until now the supervisors have not communicated with the auditors and the auditors have not communicated with the supervisors.

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Mr Ian Wigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): Let him think again about the role which the bank of England is going to play. Although it is a welcome step that a new board is being established, can he confirm that all its members are going to be appointed by the Governor of the Bank of England? It would be much better if the bank continued the role of central bank as happened in the past, carried out by a completely independent board. Other provisions contained in the statement are a welcome strengthening to the regime.

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Would it not be extraordinary damaging to set up a supervisory organization with no experience of these matters rather than to build on the foundations which the Bank of England has?

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# Uganda warned of long haul to peace

From Charles Harrison  
Nairobi

Nearly four months of hard bargaining between the military government which took power after the overthrow of President Obote on July 27, and the National Resistance Army guerrillas who had been fighting the Obote regime since 1981, ended here yesterday when they signed an agreement designed to provide for power sharing in Uganda.

In the glare of television lights, the head of state, General Tito Okello, and the NRA leader, Mr Yoweri Museveni, shook hands and thanked President Moi of Kenya for chairing the peace talks, which had often appeared to be near breaking down completely.

The plenary hall of the conference centre here was dominated by banners reading "Blessed are the peacemakers - we pray for justice, reconciliation and peace for Uganda", and "We thank you, President Moi".

Diplomats and many Ugandan refugees were present, cheering as the bulky document, bound in red covers, was passed from President Moi to the two Ugandan leaders for their signatures.

In a speech, President Moi said the agreement marked the end of armed conflict between the two groups. "This is the beginning of a new era of peace, stability and tranquility for Uganda."

"The carnage and insecurity which have plagued Uganda for close on 20 years have to be arrested by a conscious effort so that Uganda can have a new lease of life."

"The wanton use of violence has shaken the fabric of society and rendered every government ineffective. War in Uganda cannot bring victories - it only prolongs the suffering of the people."

He said the new understanding depended for its success on mutual trust, transcending tribal, regional and religious differences. "I am deeply happy that the first critical step has been taken towards a restoration of peace in Uganda. The agreement is only an instrument to help achieve the goal of national reconciliation which every Ugandan deserves."

The international community was ready to help Ugandans to reconstruct their country, provided they put the national interest first.



Mr Yoweri Museveni (left), the Ugandan guerrilla leader, and General Tito Okello, the head of state, after signing the treaty yesterday.

General Okello thanked President Moi for his guidance and said it was vital for Uganda to maintain the goodwill of Kenya.

Mr Museveni described the signing as a victory for the people. The violence in Uganda was not started by the people, but by those in power, he said, and had continued under the present Military Council. "I don't blame General Okello personally - that is why I am ready to talk to him."

Shortly before the signing, Mr Museveni announced that the administration set up in south-west Uganda by the NRA would be disbanded. This is understood to have been one of the last points in the negotiations.

## Long history of violence

## Land of hope that became a hell

By Richard Dowden

Uganda at independence was a country brimming over with optimism. A British protectorate - never a colony - there has been no militant anti-British struggle and though the independence came sooner than the British administration advised, it was felt it would be a success.

Uganda had more Western-educated people than almost any other former possession and was well served with hospitals, schools and the best university in Africa.

Against this were set two factors. One was the tribal and religious mix, in which the north of the country is peopled with Nilotic groups and the south by Bantu-speakers. Culturally and linguistically they had as much in common as Scots and Chinese.

British rule had done nothing to bring the tribes together and the rival Roman Catholic and Protestant missionaries had set the largest and most sophisticated southern tribe, the Baganda, against each other.

The second factor was the sudden outbreak of violence which the British explorer Speke was so shocked by when he visited the country in 1862. Despite long periods of peace and prosperity it is this violence which has almost become synonymous with Uganda.

Dr Obote's continual exploitation of the tribal factor led to his overthrow in 1971 and Amin, from a small West Nile tribe, seemed to be able to hold the balance.

By expelling the Asians who



formed the backbone of local trade in Uganda, Amin began the destruction of the economy. He also began to murder the Acholis and Langis, the latter being Dr Obote's tribe, as well as anyone who appeared to stand up to him.

Amin's exiled enemies waited their chance and when Amin invaded Tanzania in 1978 they joined forces with Tanzania's army and overthrew Amin in the following year.

Hopes raised by the "war of liberation" were soon dashed. Fighting within the National Liberation Front led to three presidents in quick succession, the last being Dr Obote, who was given power by a rigged election.

Several politicians took to the bush, the most important being Mr Yoweri Museveni, a westerner who has steadily increased his power and influence ever since.

The more Mr Museveni pressed the Uganda Army the more violent and repressive its counter-measures became, until in the Luwero district, north of

Kampala, the Army indulged in genocide of Baganda villagers in an attempt to clear the area of guerrillas. Elements within the Uganda army, including Tito Okello, the present head of state, knew they could not win the war against the guerrillas, but Dr Obote opposed any deal with Mr Museveni.

In desperation he began to push the Acholis in the Army more and more into the front line and according to some reports, attempted to have some of them assassinated if they objected.

In July, Brigadier Basilio Okello, one of those who had been targeted by Obote, fled north, collected troops and men and marched on Kampala. It fell almost without a fight but the soldiers indulged in two days of looting and pillage.

Mr Museveni felt that the victory should be his. The new rulers offered him a place on the Military Council but he and his National Resistance Army wanted a bigger slice of power.

Talks got under way in August in Nairobi and have continued sporadically ever since, but the arrival of former soldiers of Amin in the front line against the NRA, the continued indiscipline of the Uganda Army and the intransigence of Mr Museveni's demands made agreement difficult to achieve.

Whether the agreement will hold on the ground is doubtful. Tribal and personal mistrust have never been worse, but there is a deep wish by the ordinary people for peace.

headed by Major-General Tony Pollard, commander of the School of Infantry at Warminster, is already here, to advise on matters relating to the ceasefire and the return of Uganda to normality, from the military point of view.

Under the agreement, a ceasefire became effective at 9.20am yesterday, with military commanders required to ensure its complete implementation within 48 hours.

All roads are to be reopened for normal traffic, and army recruitment and the obtaining of arms halted. Soldiers guilty of human rights violations since

the July 27 coup are to be punished immediately.

All political detainees are to be released. The new Military Council, on which both the Uganda Army and the NRA have seven seats (out of a total of 20), must review all decrees issued since the coup.

The new national army will have 8,480 men, comprising 3,700 from the present Uganda Army, 3,580 from the NRA, and 1,200 from other former guerrilla groups. Kampala is to be demilitarized.

A national conference is to be organized, to discuss an interim government and elections for a parliamentary democracy.

After days of intensive lobbying, President Reagan had apparently breathed life into the moribund tax reform Bill. At least 50 House of Representatives Republicans were pledged to support the tabling of the Bill, enough to persuade Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Democratic Speaker, to revive it. A vote was due late last night.

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Democrats were angry with their own leaders for playing into the White House's hands by agreeing to debate the Bill, which some of their own members opposed. If the Bill

failed because of Democratic opposition, the damage to Mr Reagan would be considerably less than if it failed because of a mutiny in his own party.

Even if approved in the House, the Bill still faces hurdles in the Senate. In a further complication, Congress came close to enforcing a shut-down of the Government on Monday by refusing to pass an emergency \$370 billion (£253 billion) funding Bill to allow it to continue functioning.

Workers were ordered to report to work normally, but plans were made to start sending staff home from non-essential agencies after midnight. However, the House agreed at the last moment to keep federal agencies solvent, passing a short-term money Bill effective until midnight tomorrow.

The stop-gap funds are needed because Congress has not yet passed a long-term spending Bill. It is still bogged down with arguments over defence, transport and other domestic spending. Angered over defence spending and a possible rise in members' pay, representatives unexpectedly refused on Monday to authorize money beyond the evening, therefore technically making the Government broke.

The treatment had been effective in less than six months. "Sexual excitement is a question of temperature," Dr Wayne said. "An endogenous zone is a highly vascularized area which responds to being warmed, the stimulation causing an afflux of blood. And it is only when the zone changes temperature that pleasant sensations can be produced."

"When there is no change in temperature, the sensation produced by being touched may irritate or even cause pain. The faculty of having sexual orgasms is common to all women, but it is optional. If the origin of the problem is usually psychological, psychology is not always sufficient to solve the problem, and physical therapy may be necessary."

Dr Wayne's treatment consists in applying a five-watt infra-red laser beam to a woman's clitoral zone for four or five minutes, creating a local dilation of the blood vessels. "Such a reflex is normally innate, but it can easily be inhibited from childhood or adolescence, when the awakening of the body is thwarted by taboos or psychological problems," Dr Wayne said.

## Belgians braced for revenge raids after terror swoop

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Mr Jean Gol, the Belgian Justice Minister, who earlier this month himself escaped death at the hands of the shadowy terrorist group CCC, yesterday gave details of the dramatic arrest in Namur of Pierre Carrette, the alleged ringleader, and three other gang members.

But Mr Gol, a man with an "authoritarian" reputation who has been under growing pressure to end the new phenomenon of political violence in Belgium, did not claim that the authorities had completely destroyed the CCC, or "Communist Fighting Cells", which has caused nearly 30 explosions since October last year.

Belgium officials gave a warning that other members of the CCC were still at large and that their connections with the French terrorist group, Action Directe - of which Mr Carrette was once a member - could enable the CCC to remain active. There was a strong armed guard on public offices in Brussels yesterday - including the Justice Ministry - for fear of CCC retaliation.

The links with Action Directe underline the European dimension of the CCC operation, which may be aimed at destabilizing Belgium. Headquarters both of NATO and of the EEC. Police sources say the explosives used by the CCC come from a supply stolen in Brussels and also drawn on by Action Directe and a West German "Red Army Faction".

The most recent CCC outrage came on December 6 when a bomb exploded at a court-house in Liege where Mr Gol has been due to appear. He was detained in Brussels on Parliamentary business, and so escaped. A young law student died and extensive damage was caused. On the same day the CCC blew a hole in the NATO oil pipeline, one of their first

targets just over a year ago, and the nerve centre of the pipeline at Versailles was also hit.

The police investigation - hampered by the lack of a unified national police force - lasted 14 months. It ended, Mr Gol said, when Mr Carrette's three associates, Bertrand Sasoye, Didier Chevolet, and Pascal Vandeguerde, who had been under surveillance, met the alleged ringleader at a hamburger restaurant opposite Namur station.

Police blocked all exits and pounced. All four were armed, but did not resist arrest. Searches of CCC "safe houses" revealed documents relating to the group's 27 bomb attacks, and police said Carrette's fingerprints were on CCC leaflets. His voice was identified as that of an anonymous telephone caller who had warned a radio station of recent attacks, police said. All four had also been filmed by police revisiting the scenes of their crimes.

Pierre Carrette, aged 33, came to police attention in the 1970s when he championed the cause of imprisoned terrorists in West Germany. The son of a policeman from Charleroi and a printer by trade, Carrette adopted a nebulous left-wing ideology mixing Marxism with anarchism and promoting "militant and progressive ideas".

Mr Gol said the four suspected terrorists were the key figures in the CCC and their arrest was no negligible step. It was the result of long months of work rather than chance.

While using violence, the CCC has on the whole been careful to avoid loss of life, giving due warning when attacking banks or NATO installations. The death of two Brussels firemen this year in a bomb incident was widely attributed to official confusion and misunderstandings.

## Moribund tax Bill revived by Reagan

From Michael Binyon, Washington

After days of intensive lobbying, President Reagan had apparently breathed life into the moribund tax reform Bill. At least 50 House of Representatives Republicans were pledged to support the tabling of the Bill, enough to persuade Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Democratic Speaker, to revive it. A vote was due late last night.

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At its conference, the alliance called on the various Ethiopian opposition groups to unite in their struggle against the Mengistu regime. It blamed opposition to unity for the fact that a government with little popular support still managed to remain in control.

Lord Young was drawn into local controversy over the future of the colony when he arrived here as head of a trade mission.

Mr Ashdown's claim that the British Government had "sold" the rights of Hong Kong citizens came after criticism from opponents of the accord on the colony's future that Britain was allowing China to slow the pace towards democratic elections.

## Flood of foreign aid expected

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

If the Ugandan peace settlement restores stability and security, it will open the way for substantial inflows of economic and development aid from Britain and other countries.

In welcoming the ceasefire yesterday, Britain announced that it was ready to contribute towards rehabilitating Uganda's devastated economy with programme aid and technical assistance, including help with resettling soldiers and displaced persons.

Britain is also prepared to resume its military assistance programme, including training for a new army, once order has been fully restored.

Six members of a British military training team have remained in Uganda throughout the recent unrest, but have been unable to carry on with their training programme. Their continued presence was a symbolic gesture of Britain's hope that a peace settlement would be reached.

Potential donor countries are to hold talks in Kampala early next month to consider Ugandan plans for resettling between 30,000 and 100,000 soldiers (no one knows how many there are) who have been involved in the recent fighting.

The participants will be Britain, the United States, West Germany, Italy, the European Commission and possibly Canada. The programme is likely to cost at least £20 million.

## Bonn coalition under strain

## Secret files on Greens cause uproar

From Frank Johnson  
Bonn

West Germany's internal security service and the politicians responsible for it are the subject of an uproar over secret files kept on Green MPs.

Naturally, the Greens are demanding a full explanation - so are the Free Democrats, partners in the ruling coalition. Confirmation of the files' existence, although no one doubts that they have long been kept, came last week at a sitting of one of the parliamentary committees that monitor the security services. More disturbingly from the point of view of the Greens and the Free Democrats, it emerged that a

politician, Herr Carl-Dieter Spranger, an under-secretary at the Interior Ministry, had asked to see them.

Like his chief, the Interior Minister, Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, he is a member of Herr Franz-Josef Strauss's right-wing, Christian Social Union, which is also part of the coalition. The uproar therefore involves the most centrist party in Government, the FDP, demanding an explanation for actions by members of the most conservative, the CSU.

Herr Zimmermann said he was not informed of Herr Spranger's action, but added that his minister had behaved correctly, a statement that was interpreted as either good or bad for Herr Spranger.

As the uproar got under way, the file requested by Herr Spranger was leaked yesterday to the mass-circulation Bild. It linked 10 Greens with various extreme left-wing groups over the years.

The internal security service, officially the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, and the Interior Minister have been the subject of controversy in the summer, one of its senior counter-espionage officials, Herr Hans-Joachim Tiedge, defected to East Germany. Herr Zimmermann was blamed for keeping him in office, knowing him to have been an alcoholic with heavy debts.

## Young denies Hong Kong sell-out

From Donald Macintyre  
Hong Kong

It was "utter nonsense" for the Liberal MP, Mr Paddy Ashdown, to claim there was a political intent to sweep Hong Kong under the carpet, Lord Young of Graham, Secretary of State for Employment, said

Lord Young was drawn into local controversy over the future of the colony when he arrived here as head of a trade mission.

Mr Ashdown's claim that the British Government had "sold" the rights of Hong Kong citizens came after criticism from

## Christmas hams stay unsold in Sweden

Stockholm - Sales of Christmas hams, have slumped in Sweden, with one firm forced out of business, after press revelations concerning slaughterhouse methods (Christopher Mosley writes).

A radio news programme revealed that pigs lie in a watered-down mixture of their own excrement and urine immediately after slaughter. Reports in Stockholm of two evening newspapers said many hams on sale were at least a year old.

Sales of dried pet food have also declined after revelations that it can contain the ground-up remains of dead animals, some of them diseased.

## Gas blast kills 11 at garage

Glenwood Springs, Colorado (AFP) - A tanker lorry carrying propane gas exploded as it drove into a gas company garage here, killing 11 people and injuring 13, 10 of them seriously. One person was missing.

The garage and a small building were destroyed. An official of the company said that a blowlamp was left alight as the lorry drove in.

## 24-hour delay for shuttle

Cape Canaveral (Reuters) - A flight by the space shuttle Columbia due to start today has been postponed for 24 hours.

A spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said: "We just ran out of time in closing off the aft compartment of the orbiter."

## Mass graves

Bogotá (AP) - Another 31 bodies have been found in mass graves in a guerrilla-plagued area of southern Colombia, bringing to at least 64 the total discovered in less than a week.

## Shelters burnt

Jerusalem (AP) - A campaign by ultra-orthodox Jews to rid this city of bus shelters sporting advertisements of provocatively clad women has cost Jerusalem more than \$50,000, a city spokesman said. Vandalism has set fire to and destroyed 26 of the shelters, this year.

## Ban lifted

Kuala Lumpur (AFP) - Malaysia lifted a ban on political gatherings in six states, imposed after clashes between Muslim fundamentalists and police left 18 people dead last month.

## Banker accused

Asuncion (AFP) - Two judges petitioned Paraguay's Council of State to oust one of its own members, the Central Bank president, Senor Cesar Romeo Acosta, so he can face trial on charges of illegally exporting millions of dollars.

## Doctors back

Athens (Reuters) - Two of Greece's main doctors' unions voted to end strike action which lasted 42 days. They were reassured about job security by new legislation but will continue to press for better pay and shorter hours.

## Fatal pile-up

Jakarta (AFP) - Ten people were killed and scores injured in a pile-up involving a lorry loaded with steel pipes, two buses and a small lorry some 30 miles east of here.

## Smoke-free

Stockholm (AP) - The Swedish domestic airline Linjeflyg will ban smoking on all its flights from January 20. Officials said this would make it the first totally "smokeless" airline in Europe.

## Life sentence

Bruges (AP) - Daniel Scholcher, aged 20, has been sentenced to life after a jury in Belgium found him guilty of the shoigan murders of his parents, grandmother, aunt and uncle.

## Well blaze

Delhi (AP) - One person has killed and two were others were injured in a fire that broke out at an oil well in Gujarat state, Western India, the United News of India reported.

## Brazil drought

Rio de Janeiro (AP) - Severe drought in the southern Brazilian states of São Paulo, Paraná, and Rio Grande do Sul has ruined crops and brought widespread water rationing and forest fires.

## Aids in Zambia

Lusaka (AP) - At least two people have died from AIDS in the mining town of Ngola and several additional cases have been discovered. The Times of Zambia reported.

## Correction

A report from Warsaw on December 12 incorrectly stated that a Congress of World Intellectuals, to be held in Poland, had been postponed. The congress will open on January 16 as planned.

## EEC ministers agree to tackle Euro-pessimism

From Richard Owen, Brussels

After fears that hard-won compromises over EEC reform achieved at the Luxembourg summit earlier this month might collapse, European foreign ministers yesterday smoothed over remaining differences and adopted an all-embracing Act of European Union, with Britain, France and West Germany uniting to declare an "end to Euro-pessimism".

But sceptics said the so-called "spirit of Luxembourg" - "spirit of tinkering with the amount to tinkering with the Treaty of Rome and minimal steps towards European unity rather than the grand vision needed as the EEC is on the verge of expanding to 12 members, twice the original number."

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, appeared able to settle for rather less than the radical reforms formerly demanded by Italy, not least over the powers of the European Parliament.

But ratification by the Italian Parliament is not assured. At the other end of the spectrum, the Danish Parliament has what

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, called a "substantial problem", since the agreed Act of European Union embracing both the Treaty of Rome revisions and the new foreign policy treaty goes beyond the minimalist measures Copenhagen regards as acceptable.

Sir Geoffrey said he had agreed with M. Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, that although "not everybody got what they wanted" from the Luxembourg reforms, they did mark a step forward, and "Euro-pessimism should be out and Euro-activity should be in". This view was underlined by the Dutch, who take over the presidency of the Council of Ministers in January.

The ministers agreed that future summits of European Councils as they are properly termed, will take place twice rather than three times a year. Mrs Margaret Thatcher complained at Luxembourg that heads of Government were having to deal with a mass of detail which ought to be left to advisers between summits.



## India and Pakistan mend fences with pledge on security and atom plants

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A new era of sweetness and light may just be beginning in relations between India and Pakistan. The leaders of the two countries met here yesterday and agreed to a series of confidence-building measures, beginning with an undertaking not to attack each other's nuclear installations and including an understanding to curb cross-border terrorism.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister and President Zia of Pakistan met twice, once with advisers and ministers present and then for 45 minutes alone.

The talks were characterized by Mr Gandhi as cordial and friendly and President Zia said a number of steps had been taken towards normalizing relations.

"We have agreed to go step-by-step according to a programme and in a systematic manner," President Zia told a joint press conference.

The steps include closer economic co-operation, as outlined when the Pakistani Finance Minister, Mr Mahbubul Haq, was recently in Delhi.

The visit is to be followed by a meeting in Pakistan early next month.

Senior civil servants in the two foreign ministries will meet

in the spirit of the Simla Agreement (concluded after the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war in Kashmir), General Zia said. "We are starting from areas rather than disagreement."

The six-point agreement between the leaders was announced in the Indian Parliament last night.

It clearly shows an attempt to generate good will between the countries and comes after announcements of close co-operation that emanated recently from the summit of seven South Asian nations in Dhaka.

Both sides are shown to have yielded something. India is not pressing the nuclear issue, and Pakistan has yielded by giving a firm undertaking to curb Sikh terrorists whom India believes are crossing the border with virtual impunity.

President Zia added that India had agreed not to harbour terrorists "operating against Pakistan." Pakistan has complaints of something similar.

Mr Gandhi has agreed to visit Pakistan next year, which will set the seal on the new cordiality. It will be his first visit there since becoming Prime Minister, although General Zia has visited India several times.



Officials inspecting a bus destroyed by a limpet mine in Durban's black township of Umlazi. No one was hurt.

## Four held on 'Boss' Lilford charges

From Jan Raath, Harare

Four black men were remanded here yesterday accused of murdering Mr Douglas "Boss" Lilford, the man regarded as the financial and political power behind the old Rhodesian Front party during UDI.

Mr Lilford, aged 78, was shot dead in November 29 at his farm, Lilford, on the outskirts of Harare in circumstances which led colleagues to believe he was the victim of a grudge killing.

In the Harare magistrate's court yesterday, however, a statement by the prosecutor, Mr Bruno Mungabe, said that the four had gone to Lilford intent on robbery.

They had found the safe in the home but were surprised by Mr Lilford. In a scuffle, he seriously injured one of the attackers with his pistol, but was shot dead.

The four - Sylvester Tigere, Samuel Mshongobu, Edwin Kuvaga and Simbari Mhoro - were not asked to plead and were remanded to appear again next week.

Mr Lilford acquired notoriety for his alleged harsh treatment of black labourers and on one occasion faced charges of murder, but was acquitted. An editorial in the *Harare Herald*, Zimbabwe's leading daily newspaper, yesterday described him as "a downright Fascist who deserved to be burned at the stake like a witch".

## Koreans hold secret talks to set up North-South summit

From David Watts, Seoul

Secret negotiations are under way for a meeting between the leaders of North and South Korea.

In the past few months key figures from both sides have exchanged visits. Mr Ho Nam, an influential member of the ruling North Korean Workers' party, visited the South in September and that was returned when the head of South Korea's National Security Planning Agency, Mr Chang Se Dong, went north in October.

Though both sides denied the visits, Western diplomats have confirmed them. It is hard to judge how successful the contacts have been in bringing about what would be the first meeting between the heads of state of the two countries since Korea was split in two 40 years ago.

On the surface, contacts between North and South through economic and parliamentary talks and family visits have failed off disappointingly. More trade negotiations are planned for next month, but with little prospect of much progress.

Both sides have said they want a summit. Soon after he took office, President Chun of South Korea reiterated his predecessor's willingness to meet President Kim at any time or place.

The fact that there is a failure on other fronts could help the two leaders to try to break the log-jam at a higher level. Both have widely differing motives for a meeting and would be taking different risks should it go ahead and fail to produce a significant result.

Most of the time the North Koreans appear to be little interested in real progress on trade and humanitarian issues. Their aims are primarily political, and a summit could be a boon to President Kim, who has vowed to reunify the peninsula in his lifetime.

A meeting would also help the North to regain some of the prestige lost at the time of the Rangoon bombing in 1983, which came close to killing President Chun and horrified some of Pyongyang's friends.

The North Koreans, too, are thought to be somewhat put out at the speed with which unofficial contacts between China, one of the North's closest friends, and South Korea are progressing, at both diplomatic and trade levels.

For President Chun, a headline-winning summit meeting would help to satisfy expectations raised by the family visits in September.

South Koreans are hungry for more contacts, which would also help to divert attention from growing economic problems at home. But the President must be cautious in acceding to any northern demands as the price of a meeting.

South Korea's success in the past 10 years and particularly its hosting of the 1988 Olympics, has made it vulnerable to northern attempts to wreck either the Asian Games next year or the Olympics.

Some sort of *modus vivendi* which would allow them to go ahead without the fear of northern sabotage would be very attractive to the South, but the likely price, a non-aggression treaty, would probably be too high for it to pay.

Such a treaty would undermine many southern policies and undoubtedly raise the issue of what the North has been demanding all along - the removal of US forces from the South.

## Angola murder

Geneva (Reuters) - Marc Black, aged 21, a Swiss delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, was shot dead on a beach near Lobito in Angola. He went there in October on his first mission as a radio operator.

## UN agency in crisis

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, a UN body which has been in financial crisis for two years, needs \$8 million (£5.5 million to survive).

Had officials say the money has been requested from the United Arab Emirates, which had indicated that only \$5 million was available out of its next quota of \$13 million for the fund. It is understood here that the UAE governments, hit by falling oil prices, are finding it difficult to take a common decision on raising the money.

But IFA's prospects have improved after what is described as a significant softening of the US attitude. The development agency is financed by two groups of members, the industrialized and the Opec countries, which have provided respectively 58 and 42 per cent of its resources.

Last spring the US, alone among industrialized nations, refused to accept an adjustment to 60 and 40 per cent, arousing suspicions that it wanted IFA's collapse. Now, officials say, Washington has indicated it is prepared to withdraw its opposition.

Since 1977 IFA has lent more than \$2 billion at nominal rates to help small Third World farmers to improve production.

After receiving \$1.1 billion for the three-year period 1981 to 1983, it was given nothing for 1984. Mr Idris Jazairy, its Algerian president, was working on a reduced \$600 million target for 1985-1987 but has had to cut this to \$500 million. Britain's contribution is expected to be \$14.4 million.

After several failures to obtain agreement on new funding, a last-ditch replenishment meeting has been called for January 13 before a session of the governing council on January 2. If the \$3 million gap is not bridged, an official said there was an imminent risk of paralysis if not of collapse.

Meanwhile, IFA is spending its last resources on a batch of loan projects. On Monday the visiting Sudanese Prime Minister, Dr Tal-Ghizli Daffallah, and Mr Jazairy signed an agreement for IFA to lend \$10 million for 50 years at 1 per cent interest - for the drought-stricken south Darfur province.

Britain's overseas development administration is co-financing the project with a grant of £7 million, which the Prime Minister said was "well appreciated in the Sudan".

## Arafat under pressure Syria and Jordan to forgive and forget

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Within the next few days King Hussein of Jordan is expected to travel to Syria for one of those forgive-and-forget sessions that have become an essential part of the Arab states' foreign policy over the past two decades.

The King's meeting with President Assad - at Mr Assad's request - will mark the restoration of normal relations between Jordan and Syria, two nations which have ritually accused each other of treachery and conspiracy for the past two years; no one, of course, will be indiscreet enough to admit that amid their mutual recriminations.

Both Mr Assad and King Hussein have good reason to abandon their public grievances. Mr Assad feels increasingly isolated within the Arab world and is under pressure from Saudi Arabia to restore relations with Jordan.

King Hussein is increasingly distrustful of Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, many of whose guerrillas appear to be the Jordanians to be outside Mr Arafat's control. The King has hitherto been supporting the PLO leader but needs an insurance policy if he eventually has to abandon him. Mr Assad's own personal distaste of Mr Arafat is well known.

It was not by chance that Mr Zaid Rifai, the Jordanian Prime Minister, opened negotiations by visiting Damascus; his detestation of Mr Arafat being almost as great as President Assad's. Last week, Mr Rifai's Syrian counterpart, Dr Abdul Raouf al-Kasbi, travelled to Amman with an invitation to

the President that Mr Arafat should continue to be given limited backing. The Russians still wish Mr Arafat to lead the Palestinians in peace negotiations and King Hussein has not yet abandoned him, despite the advice of Mr Rifai.

If Mr Assad can brace himself for a reconciliation with the PLO leader - whose very embraces are said to be repugnant to the Syrian President - then a new Syrian-Jordanian-PLO front will open up. It will not please the Israelis; but in the coming weeks, Mr Arafat had better be on his best behaviour.

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## Death threat to Jews in Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Four members of Lebanon's tiny Jewish community kidnapped in west Beirut nine months ago were threatened with death yesterday by their abductors. Unless Shia Muslims held prisoner inside Israel's buffer zone in southern Lebanon are released.

A group calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth said 300 Shias were being held in Khiam, a partially-ravaged village inside the occupation zone Israel maintains in southern Lebanon.

The Israelis earlier this year, admitted that there was a prison in Khiam, but said it was administered by the "South Lebanon Army", the Lebanese militia the Israelis have paid and armed to control their buffer zone.

The threat to kill the Lebanese Jews, given to two Beirut newspapers yesterday, was couched in crude anti-Jewish language, accusing the four kidnapped civilians of being spies and threatening each of them with "execution" unless the prisoners in Khiam were released.

The four Lebanese Jews are Mr Isaac Sasson, Mr Isaac Tarrab, Mr Elie Srour and Mr Chaim Cohen Halala, all leading members of the Lebanese Jewish community produced photographs of their faces to exchange them for prisoners in Khiam.

In their statement yesterday, they referred to the Khiam prisoners as "stragglers".

Mr Sasson, aged 65, was kidnapped in March; Mr Tarrab, aged 3, was dragged from his home in the old Beirut Jewish quarter of Wadi Abu Jamil in April; Mr Srour, aged 58, was abducted by six armed men at his electrical tool shop in March; Mr Halala, an Iranian national, was taken from his home in Wadi Abu Jamil on the same day, apparently by the same gunmen.

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The four Lebanese Jews are Mr Isaac Sasson, Mr Isaac Tarrab, Mr Elie Srour and Mr Chaim Cohen Halala, all leading members of the Lebanese Jewish community produced photographs of their faces to exchange them for prisoners in Khiam.

In their statement yesterday, they referred to the Khiam prisoners as "stragglers".

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## Border safety meeting calms Zimbabwe fears of reprisal

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African and Zimbabwean military commanders will discuss the situation on their border after last Sunday's landmine explosion on a game farm in the far north of Transvaal which killed six whites, four of them children.

Machinery for regular contact between army officers on both sides was set up more than two years ago, and its activation now suggests that, despite angry verbal noises by Pretoria, military action to avenge the deaths is not an immediate prospect.

In a statement issued from its headquarters in Zambia, the banned African National Congress (ANC) said its guerrillas planted the mine - one of a number laid in the same region - but claimed that an ANC cell based inside South Africa was responsible.

The South Africans say the guerrillas left tracks which came from Zimbabwe across the Limpopo river into Transvaal and then returned the same way. They contend the ANC

unit was either based in Zimbabwe or used it as a transit route.

The use of landmines, a new tactic for the ANC, has been condemned by all shades of white political opinion, as well as by liberal English-language newspapers.

"It is one thing for the ANC to oppose the Nationalist Government, another for it to make war on innocent civilians," Mr Colin Egan, the foreign affairs spokesman of the staunchly anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party said.

Two extreme right-wing white parties, the Conservative Party and the Hereng (Reconstituted) National Party, called on the Government to "wipe out all terrorist based in neighbouring countries" and to halt "the conveyance of Zimbabwean goods" through South Africa.

● HARARE. Women of Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu (PF) party have been instructed to end their shopping trips across the border in South Africa because it flies in the face of a consumer boycott by South African blacks of white-owned businesses there (Jan Raath writes).

Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, the party's chief political commissar, was reported in *The Herald*, Zimbabwe's main daily newspaper, as saying he would "require all our women to desist from this practice until South Africa is liberated".

While the Zimbabwean Government is one of the staunchest advocates of mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa, busloads of black women daily cross into Transvaal and return laden with electric fans, knitting machines, tins of sardines and hi-tech gadgetry from discount supermarkets which appear to cater almost solely for the consumer-hungry Zimbabweans.

Many of the goods are smuggled through the border and reappear in shops here which charge easily five times the South African prices.

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## Agricultural fund needs \$8m for survival

From John Earle, Rome

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, a UN body which has been in financial crisis for two years, needs \$8 million (£5.5 million to survive).

Had officials say the money has been requested from the United Arab Emirates, which had indicated that only \$5 million was available out of its next quota of \$13 million for the fund. It is understood here that the UAE governments, hit by falling oil prices, are finding it difficult to take a common decision on raising the money.

But IFA's prospects have improved after what is described as a significant softening of the US attitude. The development agency is financed by two groups of members, the industrialized and the Opec countries, which have provided respectively 58 and 42 per cent of its resources.

Last spring the US, alone among industrialized nations, refused to accept an adjustment to 60 and 40 per cent, arousing suspicions that it wanted IFA's collapse. Now, officials say, Washington has indicated it is prepared to withdraw its opposition.

Since 1977 IFA has lent more than \$2 billion at nominal rates to help small Third World farmers to improve production.

After receiving \$1.1 billion for the three-year period 1981 to 1983, it was given nothing for 1984. Mr Idris Jazairy, its Algerian president, was working on a reduced \$600 million target for 1985-1987 but has had to cut this to \$500 million. Britain's contribution is expected to be \$14.4 million.

After several failures to obtain agreement on new funding, a last-ditch replenishment meeting has been called for January 13 before a session of the governing council on January 2. If the \$3 million gap is not bridged, an official said there was an imminent risk of paralysis if not of collapse.

Meanwhile, IFA is spending its last resources on a batch of loan projects. On Monday the visiting Sudanese Prime Minister, Dr Tal-Ghizli Daffallah, and Mr Jazairy signed an agreement for IFA to lend \$10 million for 50 years at 1 per cent interest - for the drought-stricken south Darfur province.

Britain's overseas development administration is co-financing the project with a grant of £7 million, which the Prime Minister said was "well appreciated in the Sudan".

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## Towards accord with Cairo Shamir concedes to Peres

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Settlement of the many outstanding differences between Israel and Egypt is at last under way, despite considerable foot-dragging by the Likud side of the Israeli coalition.

If Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister, gets his way, all the problems could be resolved in the first half of next year.

The team of top Israeli negotiators will pay a further visit to Cairo to produce a comprehensive package as a lead of peace treaty to complement the Camp David agreement. The visit was agreed on Monday evening after a stormy meeting between Mr Peres and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader and Foreign Minister.

Mr Peres warned Mr Shamir that unless President Mubarak of Egypt could soon claim progress in dealing with Israel,

domestic pressures would force him into a closer relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which could threaten the Camp David agreement.

Mr Shamir insisted that any settlement had to be comprehensive, and so the need for a new mission to Cairo was agreed.

The package will include improving trade and tourism between the countries, the return of an Egyptian ambassador to Israel, permission for an Israeli search for the bodies of missing soldiers and for a submarine lost off the Egyptian coast.

It will also include the sovereignty of the Red Sea resort of Tabu.

On this issue Mr Peres and Mr Shamir cannot begin to agree, Mr Peres is prepared to

accept the Egyptian claim for arbitration, while Mr Shamir insists on conciliation. Mr Peres is suggesting what he calls "binding conciliation", which would split the territorial differences between the countries and allow joint rights of administration and access.

There are 14 other contested border areas, which all could be settled in a similar fashion. With such an agreement President Mubarak would be better able to persuade domestic opinion of the need to develop peaceful links with Israel.

Mr Shamir who is due to take over as Prime Minister next October, is being manoeuvred by Mr Peres into giving way on Tabu. He knows that if he vetoes progress the coalition will fall apart and he will lose his chance of power.

## Media ban on terror acts condemned

Restricting media coverage of terrorist acts is as dangerous as the violence itself, the International Press Institute says in its annual World Press Freedom Review.

It spurs the killers on to more spectacular deeds which cannot be ignored, the institute says.

Experience has shown that silence builds up mystery and proves the best breeding ground for violent action. Politicians fail to recognize the public's right to know and to understand what is going on in their midst.

The easiest way to alarm people is to promote false reports and rumour-mongering - the natural successors to a free and reliable press. Perhaps, the real reasons are to hide the fact that governments cannot cope with their domestic problems.

By restricting the media in one country, the terrorists simply move abroad.

Governments should look for solutions to the problem rather than killing the messenger which brought the bad news.

Kevin Barlow, aged 28, an Australian welder born in Britain, arrived on crutches at the Malaysian Supreme Court in Kuala Lumpur for the second day of his appeal against mandatory death sentences imposed on him and another Australian for heroin trafficking. Three judges are due to rule today if the two Australians will be the first Westerners to hang for trafficking under Malaysia's strict anti-drug laws.

Schizo near Vienna. He is a railway official with a reputation for piety but also for balance in his outlook and he himself was apparently shocked by what happened: so much so, that he went to the local hospital and asked for a complete mental check-up before divulging his secret. The phrase attributed to him was: "At least they can't say I'm mad".

He spends much of his spare time in the chapel of San Martino on a hill outside the town, which he keeps clean and in good repair while lighting candles and praying. It was there that he went to his confessor with the news that the Madonna had appeared to him.



## THE ARTS

## Theatre

## Toothless musical comedy graveyard

Dracula  
Lyric Hammersmith

Nobody expects Christmas pantomime scripts to be up to much, so why require any more of a writer reworking C. S. Lewis or Kenneth Grahame as alternative, perishable novelties? Such seems to be the view of Peter James in slapping on this dreadful Bram Stoker adaptation, which quells the undead more efficiently than any sharpened stake. Not for nothing, the play's Charles McKewen subtitled it *Out for the Count*.

That supplies an opening clue to what has gone wrong. It is an old rule that, when action dries up, wordplay takes over; and here we get a relentless crop of leaden cross-purpose dialogue, John Gorman and leaden puns (the curtain finally comes down on "Fangs ain't what they used to be") to divert attention from the fact that Mr McKewen has nothing interesting to add to the events and that much of the original has been cut.

I wait for Mr James to correct me, but it looks as though the show has been put together to fit a director's idea: the casting of Tim Flavin - erstwhile star of *On Your Toes* - as the Count. To this end, the story has been shifted to the 1930s, and set in a tarnished art deco mausoleum, probably identified as the office of Dr

Seward's clinic. To complete the picture, there is a beaming Chorus of the Undead who cluster around Roger Glossop's upstage french windows with imminent danger of snapping their suspenders on the rusty hinges on the way in.

Why a dancer as elegant as Mr Flavin should be supported by a group who are always falling over the furniture is one of the show's mysteries.

The most obvious penalty of this scheme is that the action never gets to Transylvania. We have to put up with Castle Caxton, the Count's Surrey add-on, and it is not until the final scene, after two long intervals, that its gloomy crypt (suspiciously reminiscent of the office) comes into view. It takes the dramatic equivalent of a tin ear to present this story without venturing on to Dracula's own territory.

Among other omissions, Lucy is off the scene and in her grave before the opening. We learn of her fate from the Doctor, who has thoughtfully installed a dictaphone on his desk to record events for which Mr McKewen has no space.

What remains of the plot consists of the Count's pursuit of Mina, repeatedly stretched out on a *chaise-longue* while the face appears at the window for yet another trip down memory lane with "Who Stole My



Dracula (Tim Flavin) with the snag-prone Chorus of the Undead

Heart Away?" and "You Can't Stop Me Loving You" as a prelude to the first bite. It says much for Sylvester McCoy. Mr Flavin's dancing needs no recommendation from me. His acting, however, amounts to no more than a carefully maintained accent and a haughty pout. Mr McCoy, as the fly-

eating lunatic Renfield, opens proceedings by strangling a telephone and goes on to more ambitious feats of acrobatic comedy winding up with an assault on the front row with a naked scythe. It passes the time.

Irving Wardle

## Opera

## Mysterious beings

Julius Caesar  
Coliseum

As this tercentenary year has worn on, so one's confidence in Handel's opera *seria* as anything resembling an art form has fluctuated, reaching to a high point with Nicholas Hytner's production of *Xerxes* at the Coliseum and now rather moving in the other direction with the revival at the same theatre of *Julius Caesar*, staged by John Copley. Michael Stennett's costumes still give a very appropriate suggestion of animated Veronese, but the beings inside them remain mysterious.

What do they mean by singing so many arias in the same inexorable form? For whom are they venting so much classicized emotion? Why does the scenery keep changing when they get to the middle section of a number?

A production which is so unquenching about the form leaves the opera as a string of virtuoso arias, and leaves the singers nakedly exposed as purely vocal exhibitionists. Valerie Masterson as Cleopatra flourishes in this role, and continues to skip along the semiquavers with agility and silvered tone, though on Monday night her top register was not flexible enough for what she was demanding of it. The performance is still one of charm; if it lacks character, then the producer, and at bottom the composer, must bear the blame.

But there is certainly an individual cut to what Cleopatra's decadent brother Ptolemy has to sing, and James Bowman, half-clown and half-panjandrum, relishes the oppor-

tunities to be viciously carnal, malevolent and foolish.

It looked dangerous on paper to have another counter-tenor, Christopher Robson, in the title role, which has been so much associated with Dame Janet Baker, but in fact Mr Robson makes it entirely his own and shows off a quite different style from Mr Bowman's: his voice is softer, and delightful when used in a pianissimo that still carries well (he needs to watch a male alto hoot that threatens when he sings more loudly in the upper register). Altogether this is a Caesar more care-worn than conquering.

Those playing the Pompey family are also new to their roles. Jean Rigby is not helped by her wig (the make-up department should also do something about so many noble Roman knees looking like a supermarket poultry shelf), and she is landed with a tricky job in keeping Cornelia interesting and true to pitch through such vast tracts of slow music.

The expressive weight is there, but the technical fluency is not so sure yet, and it is I fear, notably more important in this work and this production. Sally Burgess as Sextus is also inclined to put feeling before musical propriety, but her acting is and can be so boldly straightforward and straightforwardly bold that she gets away with it.

Willard White offers a darkly honourable Achilles, and Tom Emlin Williams, a third counter-tenor, is discreetly effective as Nireus. Sir Charles Mackerras, who also conducted *Xerxes*, sounds a good deal less happy in the present score, or at any rate his players do.

Paul Griffiths

## London débuts

## Technical command

The Californian pianist Hélène Wickett played too loudly in the first half of her Wigmore Hall recital, perhaps trying to over-compensate for a pitifully small audience. The second half was in a different league: Brahms's second book of Paganini Variations was executed with absolute technical command in the finest and most controlled American manner, and Ms Wickett's approach to five of Debussy's *Etudes* (in their own way even more difficult to play) was interesting, and entirely convincing in bringing out Debussy's broad phrases with plenty of strong tone, while in no way falling short on finesse when the music demanded it. A gifted and independent-minded artist whom I hope we shall hear more often.

The programme offered by His Majesties Sagbuts and Cornetts - they take their name from Matthew Locke's *Five Part Things* for that combination - was a nicely varied assortment of seventeenth-century items. The overall sound of the group is firm yet benign, not at all overpowering in the Wigmore Hall at least, and the experience of sackbut pedal-notes has been an indispensable part of my education; deft agility was in

evidence, too, in a group of *Canzoni* by Giovanni Gabrieli. Richard Wistreich (bass) and Ivor Bolton (chamber organ) also contributed excellently, joining the four sackbuts in a memorable rendering of Schütz's magnificent lament *Fili mi, Absalom*.

A Purcell Room concert by the 22-year-old Masayuki Kino, second prize-winner in last year's Carl Flesch Violin Competition, was a bemusing affair. No one could ask for a more spectacular display of violinistic than was on show in Sarasate's *Sérénade andalouse* and *Carmen Fantasy* and in Ysaye's Second Sonata for solo violin (this last featuring some quite astonishing legato double-stopping), but all this is musically unremarkable stuff. Beethoven's A minor Sonata, Op 23, and Bartók's Second Sonata had equally superbly executed surfaces but disconcertingly little beyond that - Andrew Ball's accompaniments made more rewarding listening in every way. Hopefully Kino's playing will soon develop a degree of personality at least partly commensurate with his startling technical resources.

Malcolm Hayes

## Television

## Playing the tracks

One of the perhaps less well known aspects of the development of the railways in Britain was that it consolidated a tradition of touring theatre, the history of which, before and after the Second World War, was told in *God Knows Where* and *Port Talbot* (Thames). The idea was a good one and the subjects interviewed, Charlie Chester, Tommy Trinder, Roy Hudd and so on, told some marvellous anecdotes about life on the road, the Sunday afternoon meetings that used to take place at Crews Station, and the theatrical landlady.

For once the problem was that each of these riveting talking heads was rarely allowed more than a minute to speak before the next subject was brought in. It was as if the programme-makers had decided that the modern viewer, brought up on a diet of commercials and slickly cut dramas, has no time to spare if interest is to be kept up.

The Apollo Story, Part II (*Arena*, BBC2), which related the post-war history of the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, suffered from the same problem, although in this case it was less aggravating as the musicians interviewed were mostly not as articulate as Charlie Chester *et al*.

However this programme did have one advantage over the other: it was prepared to talk politics and social history. Black Power, Malcolm X, slum landlords and heroin all have their place in black culture. If only Sir Anthony Quayle, who presented *God Knows Where* and *Port Talbot*, could have been less polite and less circumspect.

The Military Wing (BBC2) rounded off the playwright Graham Reid's *Ties of Blood* series. The attempt to tell a story about life in a hospital in Northern Ireland, where little happened but where the souls of the subjects were bared, though it did not always come off, made a welcome change from the type of television drama which seeks to create interest through effect. Gayle Runciman as a bisexual nurse performed the most difficult of acting tasks, which is to present a loathsome character in such a way that we understand her motives but are still left hating her at the end. This alone made the programme worth watching.

Carlo Gebler

## Dance

## Conductor the star

The Nutcracker  
Covent Garden

Gennadi Rozhdestvensky's account of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* is back at Covent Garden. That is the good news. Unfortunately it comes packaged with a dowdy production which must diminish enthusiasm.

Julia Trevelyan Oman's settings look, if memory serves, to have been untuned a little, but the cluttered drabness of the *Sahibans* party is irredeemable as is the Land of Sweets with its creaky doors, tottering walls and disregard of Covent Garden's poor sightlines. The Land of Snow seemed less dour but the curtain hiding its transformation again refused to work properly on Monday and the flying sleigh is risible.

Peter Wright has had some second thoughts about the staging. One semi-authentic but daft episode has been excised from the big pas de deux, thank goodness. The other, main change is casting little Clara and her brother Fritz with pupils from the Royal Ballet School. That is a welcome idea, especially when you have someone as absorbed and expressive as Sarah Wildor to play Clara.

She and Jonathan Burrows as the Nutcracker gave the only outstanding performances in this cast. Burrows was intended to play that role at last year's première but had to stand down because of injury. His sincerity, care and enjoyment transform the character. A pity that the production rudely ignores this couple for most of Act II.

It is always a pleasure to see Alexander Grant on stage, but his genial Drosselmeyer is at odds with Wright's original morose conception of the part. Anyway, how can one justify employing guests for that role when Michael Coleman, who did it admirably last year, is conspicuously under-employed?

Similarly, why pad out the cast with Covent Garden's usual troupe of actors and extras giving their drearily predictable, hammy performances familiar from other ballets? Most of the dancers playing the family in Act I are equally guilty of that. The best dancing came from the chorus

of Snowflakes, sweeping and swirling in gusts and eddies of movement that matched Rozhdestvensky's tumultuous passion in that scene.

John Percival

Christmas shows in Scotland  
All for strength of narrative

The traditional pantomime weathers well in Scotland, in general still holding out against degeneration into the tawdry variety show. In recent years, however, the Glasgow Citizens' now joined by the Young Edinburgh Lyceum Company, have mounted a highly successful alternative: a Christmas show retaining many of the traditional elements of pantomime, but weaving them into a strong narrative with far more than usual in the way of characterization and plot.

Hansel and Gretel, the Citizens' latest, is no exception - a marvellously lively adaptation of the tale by Myles Rudge, that under Giles Havergal's direction seamlessly combines subtlety with traditional gags and routines. Surprisingly, given Mr Rudge's talent for unforgettable lyrics, remember "Right, said Fred" - the songs are thin on the ground, but his script bears testimony to his invention.

Here the story of the two children escaping from the witch's sweetie-house becomes a dream, a fantasy in which the elements of daily life reappear, distorted into fears and guilts. The forbidding old lady next door becomes a witch, her greedy son a devilish tempter, listening on to Hansel's weakest fault, and the grandfather who recently died comes back to life to help. Psychological threads are there and can be explored - fear of parental rejection, jealousy, selfishness, the often unfulfilled need for fantasy in children's lives. It becomes too involved in places, most noticeably during the transition into dream, where both the play and the production become overstated and uncoordinated.

It is this psychological detail, however, that gives the play its firm base - the characters are strong, but not static. Hansel (David McKay) has a greedy streak, and his naughtiness together with Gretel's grit save them from being too sweet and make them distinctive. Derek Watson's music helps to evoke the combination of earnestness and magic about the dream world, as does Kenny Miller's design: while the children's pets grow



What is green and amphibious with a penchant for flies? - the Puddock, here portrayed by Garry Stewart at the Traverse, Edinburgh

large, cuddly and friendly, the dream wolves, clad in black leather and chains, are spine-chillingly unpleasant.

With no pantomime games, the buffoonery is supplied by Sigi, Widow Frankel's son, a wonderful "How-To-Be-Top Mummy's boy from Andy Gray who develops hilarious mannerisms and rolls words around his tongue like his beloved treacle toffees. The performances are sharp and bold, none more so than that of Anne Myatt, whose Widow Frankel neither stoops nor leers, but fills the stage with imperious venom.

While the icy-hearted matriarch threatens at the Citizens', another imposing female form of evil is active at the Lyceum. Morgana Le Fay has the Joan Collins touch - slinky, sequined and taloned - and is a fair match for Merlin as they vie for possession of the young King Arthur with his sword-shifting magic.

Merlin the Magnificent follows Arthur as he falls prey to Morgana, whose power limits Arthur's friends as they attempt to rescue him. Stuart Paterson sets the tale in an acceptable but illogical Scottish background, giving scope for some lovable, identifiable characters. Here we have the blustering, uncouth Sir Hector (Robert Carr) hectoring by his blue-rimmed Morningside wife (Elaine C. Smith) whose social pretensions are as ridiculous as are her son's hopes of being a bully - Billy McElhaneey as Kay, a very funny, cowardly great lump of a failed punk.

In Ian Woodbridge's production this hapless crew provide acres of good-humoured horseplay, the foil to the fresh-faced Arthur (Jonathan Watson) and his friend Gwen (Gerda Stevenson). While these two reach out and pull the audience in with sheer energy, they are almost too nice to be interesting.

Where the production really is at its weakest, however, is in the opposition of Merlin and

Morgana. Sandy Neilson could have had far more fun extracting some sort of character out of a rather bland Merlin, and while Andrea Miller's Morgana listens coldly and impressively when she appears, she does not have enough opportunity to establish herself gradually as a force of evil. It is her assistant, Face, an ingratiating but ultimately good-hearted jester-like character, who lands most of the hisses with a supple performance from Alexander West.

Another ancient fairy-tale is brought to life at the Traverse, Edinburgh, in Theatre Alba's delightful *The Puddock* and the Princess. Theatre Alba have a strong reputation for reviving old Scots legends, this one being a combination of two fairy-tales by David Purves. For those not familiar with the terminology, a Puddock is green, amphibious, has webbed feet, a penchant for flies and in this case designs on princesses - which should be a clue to which tale has re-emerged in Scots folklore.

Purves draws on the strange mixture of the magical and the matter-of-fact in fairy-tales to achieve a combination of fantasy and earthy humour, done full justice in Charles Nowosielski's vigorous, gently tongue-in-cheek production. The Puddock, though thoroughly endearing, is outrageously chauvinistic and full of himself (an impressively agile performance from Garry Stewart), and while the production revels in the old Scots tongue, wickedly overdone on occasions, it has a fine edge of lowliness provided by the old Queen Mother (Carol Ann Crawford), a formidable lady whose mysterious "Grigory's ailment" does nothing to depress her natural appetite. It seems that there is a strong woman behind the mischief in all the good pantomimes this Christmas.

Sarah Hemming

## Rock

Spear of Destiny  
Town & Country Club

This year has seen *Spear of Destiny* significantly enlarge their cult following but narrowly fail to break through to mass audience acceptance; their album *World Service* reached a respectable No 11 in the charts, but two singles failed to breach the Top 40. The vocalist and songwriter Kirk Brandon formed the group in 1983 with Stan Stammers, the bassist from Brandon's previous aggregate, Theatre of Hate, a raw, harsh band founded on the traditions of hardcore punk. Those roots are still reflected both in the yobs' chorus chanting featured in many of the songs and in the nature of their more devoted fans, many of whom seem to turn up as much for the rock down at the front as to hear the latest set of songs.

But there is more to the group's appeal than their sound of marching boots rhythms. The peculiar short but stocky figure of Brandon with his denim work-shirt and tufty blond hair exuded a powerful charisma, and, although he cannot sing to save his life, there was a theatrical intensity to his warbling which was almost as portentous as the group's name.

Brandon also knows how to write a song, and many of the numbers like "Come Back" and "Rocket Ship" featured brisk, tight arrangements and rousing choruses with carefully designed hooks of unfailing appeal. The chopped guitar riffs of Alan St Clair were counterbalanced by Neil Pyzer's keyboard parts and the saxophone and flute of Mickey Donnelly, which added an unusual dimension to a group working in a genre generally unsympathetic to such lighter sounds.

They entered with a superb version of "I Didn't Know I Loved You (Till I Saw You Rock 'n' Roll)", marrying the tribal rhythms and camp lyrics to a far more menacing mien than that of Gary Glitter's original. Brandon may be rock music's answer to Donald Sinden, but his stylistic foibles complemented a strong body of contemporary post-punk material.

David Sinclair

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"AN EVENING OF... THEATRE MAGIC"

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# SPECTRUM

## The tragedy of schizophrenia: how the law has left sufferers to decide their own future

# A patient's cry - can nobody help?



In the last of the three-part series on schizophrenia, Marjorie Wallace looks at the implications of the 1983

**The forgotten illness** Mental Health Act and the effect it had on one man's life

It is a squally autumn evening. Mist and rain creep in over the west Cornish cliffs, obscuring a small group of mourners who cluster round a skinny almond tree. A plaque is nailed to its bark. "To the memory of David Royston Green 1957-1985."

The tree has been planted beside David's grave in the churchyard, which forms part of the garden of the house in which he was brought up and spent most of his last two despairing years.

Later that evening, the same group are sitting in the Forum Room of Redruth's Pevensey Hotel. A grey-haired woman in her 70s presses the switch on a tape recorder and the guests listen to a muffled recording of Beethoven's fifth piano concerto, David's favourite music. There are readings from Shakespeare and John Clare. Then a psychologist delivers a lecture on "The care of those suffering from schizophrenia" followed by a discussion entitled "its availability in Cornwall".

David, the adopted and only son of Roy and Blanche Green, suffered from schizophrenia, a form of recurring mental anguish which destroyed his will and personality and led him to commit suicide. But his mother is convinced that his illness was due not only to his illness but to neglect by society and, particularly, by the health and social services which failed to care for him in his hours of need.

Blanche Green looks towards the rows of empty seats that have been set out for all the health officials, the social services, the psychiatrists and the nurses whom she has invited to share in the mourning of her son's death. She sent out 50 invitations. No one other than close friends and family has come. "I considered it inappropriate to continue my involvement in a memorial service," Richard Lingham, director of social services, told me later. Others gave excuses or did not reply.

David first showed signs of his illness two years ago when he was 26. He was working as a motor mechanic and he began to feel uneasy with his workmates, believing they were mocking him. He split up from his girlfriend and isolated himself from former friends and his family. His mother, a retired health visitor, had left home to take a job as a nurse/companion and was unaware at first of what was happening.

"He came home and lived in an old chalet we had in the garden", says his father, Roy. "He stayed there all day, never drawing back the curtains. The place was filthy and disordered."

He didn't like it at first because it overlooked the graveyard. But then he became interested in the occult and astral projection. He believed he could see a nun who used to live here. He had been a gentle, sympathetic young man and very popular with the girls. Then he started calling his last girlfriend a witch. He began to quarrel with his normally laconic father, shout to voices he heard in his head and disappear. Sometimes he was found by the police, sleeping in an old car or walking in the country.

On the one or two occasions he was persuaded to go to a doctor, he was charming and coherent and not apparently in need of help. The doctor refused to talk to Roy or Blanche about David unless he was present too. When they did find help, Blanche was told she was the cause of the illness. David was happy. It was she who was doing the crying.

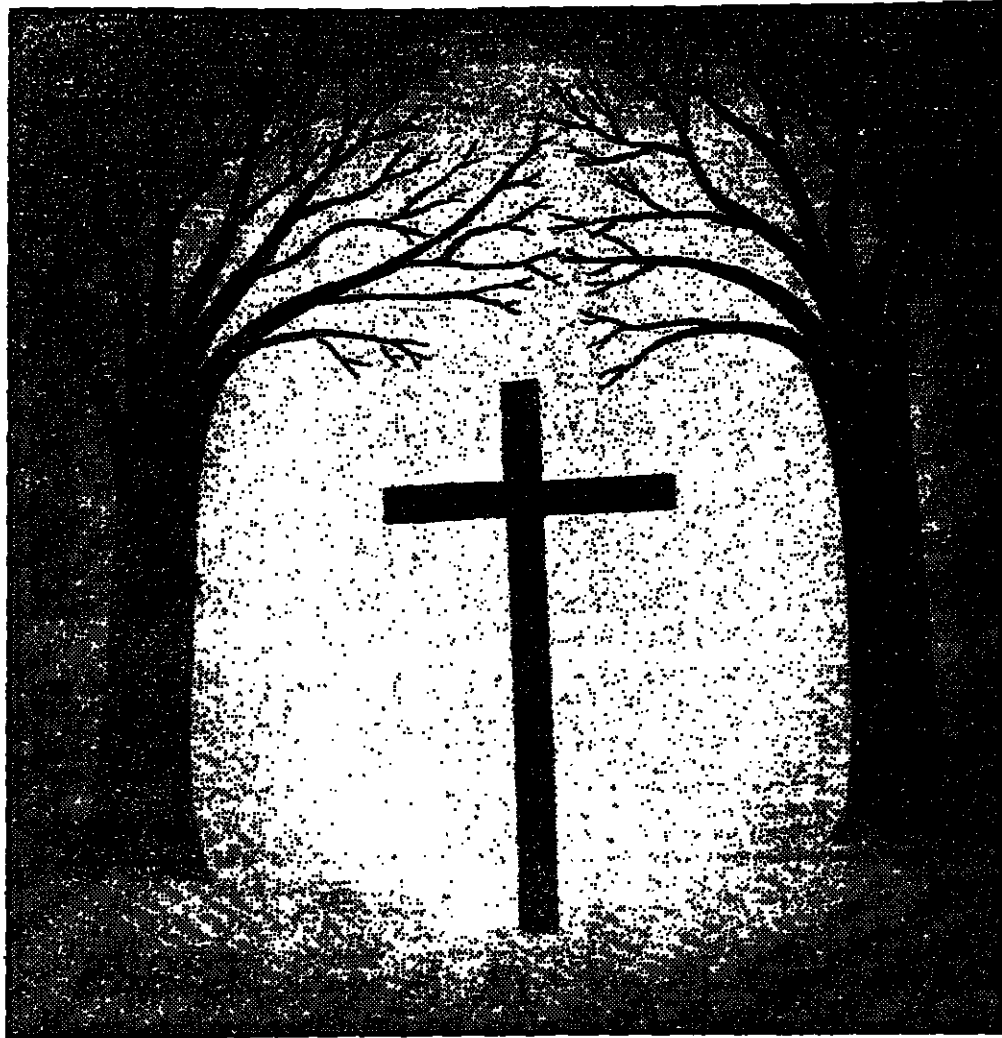
By the end of last year, David was severely ill, apathetic, frightened and subject to tormenting depressions, exacerbated by his failure to keep jobs or friends.

"February 5", he wrote in his diary. "Very depressed. I do not understand the circumstances of my illness. I am at a loss to know which is the right direction. I don't understand why I feel so alone or appear to be so alone. This loneliness is the thing that will KILL me in the end."

### 'Someone has to try to break the private hell of indecision'

He received some out-patient treatment from a psychiatrist but, when his mother tried to get him admitted to hospital, he was taken in for a night and then told by a social worker to find his own digs the following day. He was advised to look up the Yellow Pages and, if he needed help, he must get himself to a doctor. As Blanche Green pointed out, this was precisely the kind of move his illness prevented him from making. She felt that if he were to be supported in the community it was the duty of those responsible to seek him out. "Someone has to break the private hell of his indecision", she says.

The professionals stuck to their moral code. If David did not seek them out, then he had the right to be mad and untreated. "It's a question of individual liberty", says Richard Lingham. "Some



people prefer to live out the period of their illness in a disorientated and, at times, unhappy state as free individuals in the community. The balance is between community care and policing. David Green's sad case exemplifies some of the many problems involved in making judgements within the philosophy of the Mental Health Act 1983."

But he also admits that Cornwall, a rural area more than 100 miles long, is so impoverished for services that it would be impossible for social workers, doctors, or the 14 (only eight at the time of David's death) community psychiatric nurses to be available for every emergency. The nurses work on

weekdays only; at weekends there is only one psychiatrist on duty for the whole of Cornwall and there is no other crisis intervention service. GPs are reluctant to be involved and so often the only help available is from the police.

Even then, if the sufferer has not actually harmed himself or his family, or committed a breach of the peace in a public place, it is treated as a domestic matter.

David was not violent and, in his attempt to keep his dignity and independence, did not always ask openly for help. He became more disturbed, rejected a place offered him at a day centre, and slept in his car and then in a caravan at

Launceston, nearly 100 miles from his home. The week before Easter this year he was turned down as being too unwell to take up a place on an industrial rehabilitation course. He telephoned his mother with the news of the disappointment and she alerted his social worker in Launceston.

By Wednesday of that week, no one had visited David and he told neighbours, "No one can help". He failed to keep an out-patient appointment with the psychiatrist in Redruth. After further pressure from Blanche Green, social worker Henry Stanbury called but judged that no further action was necessary. "David did not manifest the nature of his

feelings or intentions", wrote Mr Lingham. "But if he had done so, Mr Stanbury and his medical colleagues were ready and willing to respond."

Blanche Green says that David did tell his family but their warnings to the authorities were ignored. On Easter Monday David was found dead in his car on Bodmin Moor. He had died from carbon monoxide poisoning. "He was pathetically grateful if anyone did visit him", she says. "They waited. He died. It was 'wful neglect'."

The case of David Green challenges the ethics of the new approach to mental health. It is based on the freedom of the individual to determine for himself whether he wants help or treatment. But the fundamental difference between a mental illness and a physical one is that the illness itself can deprive the individual of the ability to make a rational judgement. A doctor would not hesitate to provide help for someone knocked unconscious in a car accident, or someone in a diabetic coma. Should not schizophrenics be given the same opportunity of survival?

Since the amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 have been implemented, doctors are finding it increasingly difficult to treat their patients. "It's very frustrating", says Dr Rosalind Fudgson, consultant psychiatrist at Friern Hospital, London. "The definition of the illness is that you don't have insight, but we have to wait until a patient is really ill or becomes a danger to himself or others before we

### THE LEGAL POSITION

Community care has been government policy since Enoch Powell, then Minister of Health introduced the 1962 Hospital Plan for the running down of the old asylums and the shift of resources from hospitals to local authorities. A series of white papers and consultative documents followed outlining plans of how this transition should be made.

But the promised alternatives have been slow to materialize. Local authorities are not statutorily obliged to provide accommodation (except for vulnerable homeless) or day care and, under current financial pressures, few have been willing to devote more than token resources. In a strongly-worded report in February this year, the House of Commons all-party Social Services Committee warned: "The pace of removal of hospital facilities has far outrun the provision of services in the community to replace them."

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, said yesterday: "The mentally ill deserve better than to become unwilling long-stay patients in large wards of run-down Victorian Institutions. Community care can, and should, provide a more humane and civilized way of offering support to many people. It requires careful individual assessment and effective planning by different agencies and it is essential that it is followed through so that there is no danger of people getting 'lost' in what can be a hostile outside world."

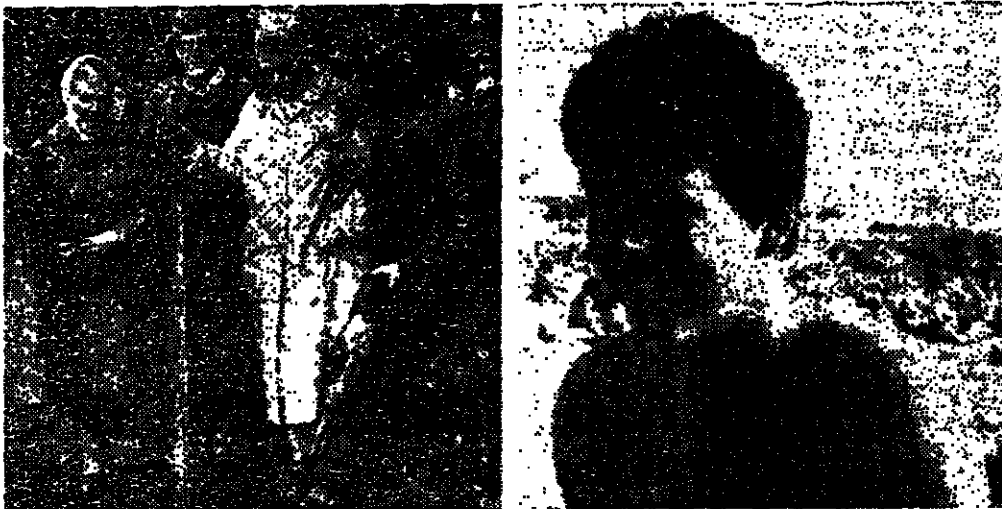
"Sadly, mistakes are still being made and I do not defend them. But it can work when it is pursued with enthusiasm and commitment. That is what I am urging health authorities to do in collaboration with local authorities and voluntary organizations."

### WHERE TO FIND HELP

● The National Schizophrenia Fellowship, 78 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4NS (01-380 3651), offers help to sufferers and

their relatives. It runs a network of local groups.

● The Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain, International Schizophrenia Centre, Bryn Hyfryd, The Crescent, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2AG (0248 354048), also offers advice



Life and death: Mrs Blanche Green plants a tree in the local churchyard in memory of her son David (right), a schizophrenic who killed himself with exhaust fumes from his car

### FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: Public Opinion



Five Gael supporters and slightly less than two-thirds (64 per cent) of Labour supporters back the agreement. A plurality (42 per cent) of Fianna Fail support the agreement despite their party's decision to vote against it in the Dail.

The IMS poll was asked of a representative sample of approximately 1,300 voters interviewed at 50 sampling locations throughout the Republic.

### Atom split

While publicity surrounding the controversy about New Zealand's policy on nuclear defence has subsided, public opinion there remains divided. The majority (52 per cent) approve of the Labour government's policy to ban nuclear-powered vessels from ports and three-quarters (77 per cent) approve the ban on nuclear weapons. When asked to choose between breaking defence ties with the US or allowing ships that could be nuclear-armed into its ports, the New Zealand public is evenly divided: 45 per cent in favour of breaking the defence ties and 45 per cent are in favour of allowing ships into ports, with 10 per cent undecided.

Two thirds of New Zealanders (66 per cent) disagree with the premise that, in a nuclear war between the major powers most people living in New Zealand would survive, according to a survey carried out by the Haylen Research Centre.

### Flagging support

An American housewife was reported (by the Wall Street Journal) as "aghast" when she turned over her small souvenir statue which showed the American flag being raised by the victorious marines at Iwo Jima, a turning point in the war against Japan. On the back was a label saying "Made in Japan".

After half a century of being a nation of free traders, Americans now, by a margin of 51 per cent to 38 per cent, favour greater limits on the importation of foreign-made goods. When asked about Japanese goods, the margin widened to 70 per cent favouring restrictions, according to a WSI/NBC poll.

Reducing the budget deficit is now thought to be the most important issue facing the country (by 42 per cent).



### Marriage vows

Nearly two-thirds of the German public take the view that the institution of marriage is necessary and only 14 per cent believe it has outlived itself, according to an Allensbach Institute study earlier this year. Allensbach first asked the question in 1949, when 89 per cent of Germans said they thought marriage was here to stay, only four per cent viewed it as out-dated and seven per cent were not sure. The percentages stayed constant between 1949 and 1963 but a

decade later, in 1973, those Germans who believed marriage to be necessary had dropped to 78 per cent.

Towards the end of the decade, in 1978, support for the marriage institution had declined by one-third to 61 per cent, but it has now recovered somewhat.

Among men aged 16-29 years, only 42 per cent now believe marriage necessary; 25 per cent think it is outdated and 31 per cent are not sure. Virtually the same percentage of young women agree: 41 per cent say it is necessary, 24 per cent say it is outdated and 34 per cent are not sure.

### Robert M. Worcester

The author is Chairman of MORL. Details of fieldwork dates and sample sizes are reported in British Public Opinion Newsletter published by the firm.

## A nation lost for words

Definitions of functional illiterates include people unable to fill out a form, read a medicine bottle or a newspaper, look up a telephone number or use a bus timetable. People who cannot function effectively when confronted by simple written words in everyday situations; people isolated in deception, humiliation and fear of discovery.

They are mechanics who cannot read manuals, clerks who bungles mental jobs, shoppers who cannot select supermarket bargains, factory workers unable to tell "High Voltage" from "Fire Exit". In America, they are one out of five adults (official government figures). Unofficially, they are one in three.

How at least 26 million people in the world's richest nation can emerge from such still unable to master the morning's headlines without a laborious effort is as mysterious as it is scandalous. Certainly it is an indictment of school standards which, generally, are wretchedly and shamefully low.

Cynics say literacy escapes the full blast of Congressional scrutiny because its victims are at the bottom of the social, economic and voter-power structure. Only five per cent of illiterates are reached by literacy programmes and government funding equals just over £1 a year for every illiterate adult.

The government accepts the following functional illiteracy figures produced by the University of Texas: Adult men, 13,454,820 (17 per cent of that group); adult women, 20,056,000 (23 per cent); while adults, 23,454,520 (16 per cent); black adults, 7,793,290 (44 per cent) and Hispanics, 5,857,024 (56 per cent).

Illiteracy has many sources and solutions. Television, schools and parents are widely blamed. Poor children in poor schools in poor towns do worst, irrespective of the teaching methods.

It is estimated officially that 2.3 million people a year become functionally illiterate adults, far outweighing the number who complete adult literacy courses successfully.

There is a clear correlation between illiteracy, unemployment and crime. At least half the unemployed are functionally illiterate, according to Labour Department estimates. Half the prison population is functionally illiterate, the Education Department says. The cost to society is staggering. Crime alone, businesses waste inestimable amounts of paperwork and time because of poor literacy skills. A New York-based insurance company estimated that 70 per cent of dictated correspondence must be done again at least once because of human error.

Business and government have fewer jobs requiring minimal literacy. Today's enlisted servicemen reads on average at tenth-grade level (15 to 16-year-olds), which is woefully inadequate to function at peak effectiveness. Thousands of soldiers have difficulty reading even the orders of the day. The Army is acutely aware of the problem. In Kentucky, as part of an experiment, soldiers repair M-1 tanks with the help of a talking technical manual known as PEAM (Personal Electronic Aid For Maintenance).

Jonathan Kozol, author of *Illiterate America* scoffs: "The Army is publishing comic-like picture books to explain such simple operations as unloading the hood of a Jeep. That book is five pages long. How long is the comic book that tells a young recruit what to do with a Cruise Missile? If any Administration had good sense, it would understand that investing 10 billion dollars a year in literacy for 10 years would wind up being a bargain."

According to Mr Kozol's estimates, at least 60 million American adults would be incapable of reading this article.

Christopher Thomas

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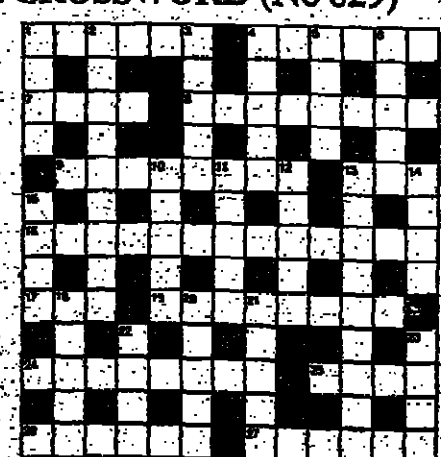


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### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 829)

- ACROSS  
1 Directed wrongly (6)  
4 Snide (6)  
7 Turbulent (4)  
8 Short piano piece (8)  
9 Intrinsically (8)  
13 Dowed (3)  
16 Disregard (4,1,3)  
17 Friend (3)  
19 Ragged (8)  
24 Atmosphere (8)  
25 Cannabis (4)  
26 Walk slowly (6)  
27 Portrait subject (6)



- DOWN  
1 Bog (4)  
2 Villain (9)  
3 Given (3)  
4 Pig meat (5)  
5 Flower tray (4)  
6 Therefore (5)  
10 Ordain (5)  
11 Brilliant success (9)  
12 Up tight (5)  
13 Previous example (6)  
14 Toy (4)  
15 Prize (4)  
16 Confess (5)  
18 Make void (5)  
21 Hair lock (5)  
22 Bullpoint (4)  
23 Dispute (4)

SOLUTION TO No 828  
ACROSS: 1 Effie 2 Mock 3 Among 4 Vindictive 5 Terrapin 6 Cyst 7 Sadden  
DOWN: 1 Flour 2 Egg 3 Elysian 4 Fields 5 Mode 6 Crisanti 7 Particular 8 Half Nelson 9 Awry 10 Weak 11 Noddily 12 Yarn 13 Sea 14 Dred



## WEDNESDAY PAGE

# The harmony behind a jazz master

Pianist Stan Tracey celebrates 25 years of marriage to his wife Jackie on Sunday by throwing a party. Without her driving force and persuasive telephone technique, the silent hero of jazz might never have been recognized, as Shirley Lowe discovered

Stan Tracey is one of the world's greatest jazz pianists, in fact the greatest, according to some people, including his wife Jackie. Yet in the late Sixties, when it was all rock 'n' roll and the clubs were full of youngsters with acoustic guitars, Stan was prepared to turn it in and become a postman.

Jackie saw him filling in the application form and tore it up. "You don't want to be a postman and I don't intend to be married to one," she said firmly and set about rebuilding her husband's career.

On Sunday, the Traceys are throwing a party at the Bass Clef club in Hoxton, east London, to celebrate their silver wedding - and there aren't many of those in the jazz world. It's partly a great excuse for getting together with a lot of old friends and also Stan's way of saying thank you to his wife.

He had a try-out of his tribute on the telephone at work before. "I find it hard..." he began and there was a long, agonized pause. "Well, she's ever so wonderful, you know, I don't know what to say..." Stan has never been much of a talker. His wife swears he's never initiated a conversation in his life but for 25 years they've had an ideal partnership with him on the piano and her on the telephone.

They met when Jackie was a promotions manager at Decca, plugging singers like Slim Whitman and Pat Boone, including Jack Jackson, Pete Murray and all the other leading DJs of the day. Stan was playing piano, composing and writing arrangements for the highly successful Ted Heath band.

Jackie was married to another musician at the time, and in an attempt to save their failing marriage, they had moved to a new flat in Kilburn. Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth were on the top floor, Stan Tracey and his second wife on the floor below them.

"Stan came to our flat, I don't remember when, I didn't really notice him," says Jackie. "He was very quiet, and shy and he was married. Then I went up to his flat one day for a coffee and I heard him play and it really turned me round."

It was the music, she says, that brought them together. Jackie had been reared on pop, leaving school at 14 to work for Decca records, rising from office junior, typewriter and promotions secretary to become England's only woman promotions manager for the country's biggest selling record label.

Then Stan introduced her to Duke Ellington, to Stravinsky, to his own quirky style of playing. She persuaded her company to record Stan Tracey's first record under his own name and next thing they were living together.

"We were married on Christmas Eve, 1960," she says. "We didn't have a honeymoon or anything. Stan was working that day, we always put the music first."

Their son, Clark, was born in 1961, Sarah a year later. Jackie had left Decca and Stan was now house pianist at Ronnie Scott's Soho club. Their earnings dropped from £100 to £27 a week, with two children and a mortgage. "Stan worked seven nights a week for seven years to keep us," says Jackie. "We hardly saw him. He'd come home at four in the morning on the all-night bus, sleep until four in the afternoon and then he'd just sit, never speaking, until it was time to go back to the club and start playing again. He became more and more pale and withdrawn; he looked ghastly."

"I discovered he was taking pills, all sorts of things to keep himself going. He was killing himself. So one day I just walked into the club and took him away. It was the only security we had, but I didn't want it at that cost."

For two years Stan sat and waited for the telephone to ring. "He thought the world had forgotten him, that he'd never work again," says Jackie. She went back to plugging records and they lived on her part-time salary and bits and pieces of royalties.

One grim day they had to appeal to a tribunal in Brighton for £35 to pay the gas bill. The tribunal said it could not help but suggested that Stan refrain for another job. Jackie is incensed by the memory. "It was the most insulting thing I've ever heard... somebody of Stan's calibre."

That was when he decided to become a postman. "Stan was totally ashamed of being unable to provide for us. He thought he'd be able to collect his sack each day and walk around delivering the letters and he wouldn't have to talk to anyone," says Jackie. "Well, that was it. I knew I had to do something."

She got together with three other musicians and their wives which gave her the necessary power to obtain grants from all the relevant councils to start a jazz club, and the use of school classrooms to set up a jazz summer school. "It was begging, really, but it worked. In those days art meant classical music or drama. Nobody had ever asked for a jazz subsidy before."

Jackie and Hazel Miller, a bass player's wife, wrote advertisements, printed and delivered handbills and posters, bought the food for the jazz school, cooked it, washed up and then cleaned the classrooms. They formed a musicians' action group to promote jazz and raise musicians' fees and they lobbied MPs and the musicians' union about the unfairness of bringing in American jazz players in exchange for English pop groups.

They produced and presented their own programme for BBC2's *Open Door*, getting Spike Milligan along to talk about the plight of British jazz musicians, and Jackie called on all her



Hitting the right note: Stan and Jackie Tracey

old contacts in the music business, cajoling and haranguing them. There were two sell-out Stan Tracey concerts at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, another at the Wigmore Hall and, when the big record companies began deleting his old albums, Jackie borrowed £500 and set up a record company to ensure a complete documentation of her husband's work.

Ten years ago, when she was 46, she cracked up. "I talked myself through the top of my head," she had high blood pressure, palpitations, headaches. She was a neurotic mess but modern jazz was no longer just something played on a bad piano in a pub. It was gaining serious recognition and so was Stan Tracey.

He was invited to tour the world, to teach at respected schools of music, play at prestigious clubs and jazz festivals. The BBC ran an *Omnibus* programme on him and last year he was the first jazz musician to be awarded an honorary membership of the Royal Academy of Music.

He works with a 15-piece band, a sextet, a quartet, as a duo or solo. A few weeks ago he was back at Ronnie Scott's playing piano in Charlie Watts' Big Band and when a popular new quartet, Fathers and Sons, took the stage recently at the Bull's Head, Barnes, there was Johnny Dankworth on the sax, his son Alec on double bass, Stan bunched over the piano, pounding the keys with faultless passion, and his son Clark on drums. "Chips off the not so old blocks," said Dankworth.

Jackie was there, as she always is, waiting to chauffeur Stan home, nodding attentively to the best, alert with pleasure at each fresh interpret-

ation of a familiar theme. When she was in the pop business she was always buying new clothes and had her hair done twice a week. "Losing all that has never bothered me," she says. "I'm not into spending money and I never worry about next month. If we can keep going this month it's okay."

Her life revolves around Stan's work. Before leaving their terrace house in Streatham, south-west London, each evening, Jackie cooks something wholesome and wholesome - they are both vegetarians and when they get home, around two in the morning, they unwind with cups of tea and the video.

Both their children are in the business. Sarah writes lyrics, sings, likes reggae and soul, and when Clark left school his parents paid him pocket money to stay home and practise. It was only when Clark became famous enough to be interviewed that Jackie discovered that he had decided to become a drummer because he wanted to play with his father and knew he would never do that if he was on piano, too.

"He's never been as daft as his dad who hasn't phoned for a job in his life," says Jackie. "Stan always says that he wishes he could handle a telephone the way he can handle a piano, but he's the one that matters, he's the one with the talent. People say I'm pushy, that I talk for Stan, but there's no way I'd say anything unless I'd checked with him first. He may be shy, but where his music is concerned Stan is a very positive person."

"It's strange, really. I do love him but it's always been the music which attracted me as much as the man."

## Alternative fare to knock the stuffing out of turkey



Shona Crawford Poole

No one has voiced the festive season's most fashionable culinary dilemma more clearly than the reader who asked for ideas on a vegetarian equivalent of the fatted calf.

Well, there is a good case, Mr Schofield, for a fatted carp, the star of traditional Christmas Eve meals throughout middle Europe. The custom arises from the festival's place as a fast-day of the church: carp, a widely cultivated fresh water fish, was the most celebratory dish to be found despite its muddy flavour. The widespread practice of keeping the fish alive in the bath to improve its flavour has given rise to a host of anecdotes and a wide variety of recipes.

I have tried jellied carp from Hungary, fried carp from Poland, a casserole of carp in beer with gingerbread from Germany, and something similar called a black sauce from Czechoslovakia. But the only carp dish I could recommend would be Rascian carp with paprika, sour cream and peppers as made once-upon-a-time by the Hungarian chef Karoly Gundel.

There are any number of other fish recipes with impeccable Christmas credentials from English oyster soup to Spanish sea bream baked with olive oil and garlic. Contemporary Romans enjoy stewed eels, and Poles pack away pike soufflé.

But of course some vegetarians do not eat fish, or eggs, or cheese, while others stretch the definition by eating game but not farmed livestock. To judge from the dozens of magazine articles on vegetarian Christmas catering, it is not creating festive vegetarian meals that is the problem. What is exercising many people is how to cater simultaneously for a tribe of assorted turkey and tofu eaters.

Here it is really only the main course that requires special thought because easy compromises are available for first courses and puddings. I find the idea of nut roasts, lentil cakes and their ilk lacking in festive flair, so I have made a puff pastry chestnut pie that can be decorated as flashily as you like. If oven space is tight, it will bake in the time that a large turkey is resting and being carved.

The menus, suggestions and recipes which follow are based on fresh foods quickly cooked.



**Quick Christmas Dinner**  
Quails' eggs  
Honey-basted turkey  
New potatoes baked  
Glazed sprouts and chestnuts  
Antoin Mosimann's last-minute Christmas pudding

Allow five quails' eggs per serving. Boil for one minute starting in cold water. Cool quickly. Serve peeled or still in the shell with thinly sliced brown bread and butter and celery salt.

For a 4.5 to 5.5kg (10 to 12lb) fresh and preferably free-range turkey, melt together 225g (8oz) runny honey and

usual way, top with holly and serve with the cold sauce.

**Glazed chestnut pie**  
Serves 4 to 6

450g (1lb) cooked whole chestnuts  
3 leeks  
225g (8oz) celeriac  
55g (2oz) butter  
1 tablespoon sugar  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
450g (1lb) puff pastry  
1 egg yolk to glaze

Fresh, dried or tinned whole chestnuts can be used. Half a pound of dried chestnuts reconstitutes to a pound.

Cut the leeks into one-inch lengths and steam until just tender. Cut the celeriac into 1/2-inch (1cm) cubes and simmer till tender in water acidulated with a little lemon juice. Melt the butter in a wide pan and add the sugar. Turn all the vegetables in this mixture on a medium heat to glaze them on all sides without breaking them up. Season them well and allow to cool.

Roll out the pastry thinly into a large rectangle. Pile up the vegetables in the shape of a brick on the centre, then fold the pastry over the filling, pinch it up into a pastry frill, or slash the dough to make a plait. Transfer the pastry to an oven sheet and glaze it with the egg yolk mixed with a tablespoon of water.

Bake in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for 30 minutes, then reduce the heat to moderate (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) and bake it for 10 to 15 minutes more. Serve at once.

**Antoin Mosimann's last-minute Christmas pudding**  
Serves six

3 eggs, separated  
80g (3oz) sugar  
300g (10oz) grated carrot  
50g (2oz) grated apple  
80g (3oz) sultanas  
50g (2oz) raisins  
Grated zest of half an orange and half a lemon  
150g (5oz) coarsely ground almonds  
30g (1oz) coarsely ground hazelnuts  
100g (4oz) chocolate cake crumbs  
Ground cinnamon and mixed spice to taste  
Fresh raspberry sauce (optional)

Vegetarian Christmas Dinner  
Avocado and William pears with sesame mayonnaise  
Home-made noodles with truffles or mushrooms and Parmesan  
Cheese and salad  
Last-minute Christmas pudding

Halve, skin and stone or core ripe avocado and dessert pears and slice them. Alternate slices of the two pears prettily on serving plates. Serve with good mayonnaise to which a little sesame paste (tahina) and cream or yoghurt have been added to make a pouring dressing.

Fresh noodles and white truffles are a sublime but hard-to-come-by combination. Sliced mushrooms, raw or cooked, are another possibility. Slivers of smoked trout and cream are another. Then again, freshly grated Parmesan and butter cannot be faulted.

Cheese, for a big party I would like a whole Vacherin, either a Mont d'Or, or better still, if you can find one, an Haut Daube. Serve it on its own or with a salad of crisp and tender greenstuffs mixed with a few peeled grapes and dressed with nut oil. For lovers of English cheese I would offer Swaledale or Cotswold with slices of apple instead of grapes in the salad.

## Crib notes: vive la différence

Disillusioned by cheap and gaudy nativity scenes, Libby Purves finds the French have the answer

Goodwill or no goodwill, someone has to say it: British crib-figures are lousy. Some of the Nativities in churches are not too bad, especially when the congregation has inherited older statues and looked after them; some are comically awful. A colleague spotted a church tableau recently in which everyone except the Baby Jesus was an Action Man. They had been stripped of their machine-guns and dressed in suitably flowing robes, but something about the facial expressions, bulging muscles and macho plastic scars still nudged the atmosphere closer to *Rambo II* than to Luke 2:1-14.

However, it is not the public stables and managers that depress me: it is the real decline of cribs in private homes. Traditional families still like to devote a corner of the mantelpiece to setting out the



Models of excellence: the santons figurines

Virginia and Joseph and the Baby, carefully touching up the Ox's broken ear and affectionately taking the Three Kings out of their paper. Some of us go so far as to crumple a brown paper mountain, but how do new-formed families find the where-withal to give their own children a modest reminder of the Christmas story in an age of plastic midwinter? Where can you buy decent crib figures?

You could try the department stores and china shops first. There you will find "artistic" figurines, either in bland white glaze or severe brown clay.

Or you could go to a craft market and find a barbarously folksy Holy Family made out of corn-dollies, or pebbles and shells, or painted cotton-reels. The specialist Catholic devotional shops will do you little better: a garishly pious little crew painted and glazed to within an inch of their plaster-of-Paris lives. Better, perhaps, than the ghastly "good taste" of the lay shops, but still not magic, not something to gasp at, or hold briefly in excited six-year-old fingers.

It was having such childhood memories of my own that led me

Provençal cribs is that, aside from the Holy Family and their soft-faced animal companions, the *santons* include a host of worshipping villagers. They statues represent every craft of a 19th-century provincial community, on its way to pay homage at the manger.

There they all were again, exquisite and jewel-bright: the fisherman with a basket of herrings, a woman with garlic, the man with a basket of hens on his head.

There is even *le Brigand* with a little gift of swag, and a sooty sweep. Most touching of all and one of the most firmly established figures in the tradition, is *le Ravi*, the village simpleton, who brings nothing at all but an expression of wonder.

Mary kneels by the crib, but without the treacherously hideous St Teresa expressions she is clearly a peasant girl with the same earthy face as the villagers. The Kings have real gold glittering on their robes. None of the figures has changed in the slightest since I first saw them as a child 25 years ago.

After much huffing and puffing and organizing of international money orders, I accomplished a bit of personal importing and days later lifted the little saints out of their airtight box. They are only an inch high and made of painted clay, but they breathe love and wonder and generous homage and the sanctification of everyday life, even in treacherous England. My children and I shall crumple them a paper hillside every year now, with proper Christmas delight.

The first firm was startled. Now, we do not sell to anywhere in England, *Les Angels* are not very religious, past Protestants, I believe, *quod*? I tried another and received much the same response, only more helpful in tone. "We could send you the catalogue," Yes, yes, please.

In came, bringing more memories and a lump in the throat. The real beauty of the



## You may be entitled to share in a fund worth up to \$30,000,000

### ATTENTION

Summary Notice of Class Action and Proposed Settlement  
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN RE NORTH ATLANTIC AIR TRAVEL ANTI-TRUST LITIGATION  
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: ALL CASES LEAD CIVIL ACTION No. 84-1013

If you flew between the United States and the United Kingdom on Pan Am, TWA or British Airways between March 1, 1982 and March 31, 1984, you may be entitled to share in a fund with a potential value of \$30 million.

Whether you are a company or an individual, if you purchased an airline ticket after February 26, 1982 for scheduled subsonic air travel between the continental United States and the United Kingdom during the period March 1, 1982 and March 31, 1984, on Pan Am, TWA, or British Airways, you may be entitled to share in a distribution of a potential fund of \$30 million in coupons usable to reduce your cost of future U.S.-U.K. air travel.

The coupons would be distributed as part of the proposed settlement of this antitrust class action lawsuit. In re North Atlantic Air Travel Antitrust Litigation, Civ. No. 84-1013, currently pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

If you wish to share in this settlement and receive your coupon(s), or to object to this settlement, or to exclude yourself from this lawsuit, you must follow the procedures set forth in the full Notice of Class Action and Proposed Settlement. All claims for coupons must be submitted on the Claim Form that accompanies this Notice.

If you wish to share in the settlement and receive coupon(s), you must complete the Claim Form and return it postmarked no later than February 16, 1986. Failure to submit the Claim Form or to exercise any of the other options described in the Notice of Class Action and Proposed Settlement by February 16, 1986 will result in the loss of any right to share in this settlement or to recover on the claims asserted in this lawsuit.

Please do not contact Pan Am, TWA or British Airways

To obtain a copy of the full Notice of Class Action and Proposed Settlement, together with the Claim Form, you must promptly:  
Either call 718 236 2337 in the U.S. or 0272 277008 in the U.K.  
Or complete the form and send it, or simply send your name and address, to the Settlement Administrator at the appropriate address below:

U.S.A.: The Settlement Administrator  
P.O. Box 1002  
Bowling Green Station  
New York NY 10274.

U.K.: The Settlement Administrator  
P.O. Box 214  
Bristol BS99 7AW.

Please forward Notice of Class Action and Proposed Settlement to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP/ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

## SATURDAY Jumbo crossword

The big one - clues galore in *The Times* prize jumbo crossword

### Quiz of the year

Remember 1985 - the year of Bittburg, Heyssel and Broadwater Farm? What happened, where and to whom? Test your memory of the past 12 months in *The Times* prize quiz of the year



# THE TIMES DIARY

## Something deep here

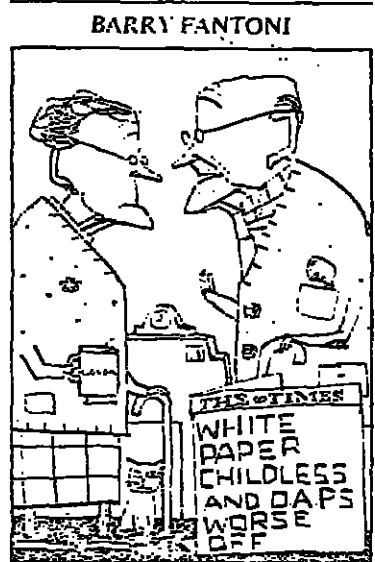
Strange as it may sound, right-wing Labour MP Greville Janner is to be offered honorary membership of the NUM by Arthur Scargill, along with three more likely left-wingers. Tony Benn, Bob Clay and Roland Boies. The official Miners Parliamentary Group of MPs is so surprised that it put the matter at the top of its discussion agenda last night. Boies tells me he has not been told why he was chosen and that he has no intention of accepting without ensuring that it will not compromise his membership of the General and Municipal union or involve a financial tie-up. "Usually membership is strictly limited to people who have been miners," he said. "Manny Shinwell for years wanted to become a member because of his mining seat but could not get in." Janner, who says he was nominated by Leicester miners leader Jack Jones, has no doubts about accepting. "I've done much for miners in my area over the last 15 years." Asked if he had had any time for the breakfast Notts union, he replied: "I'll get it in the neck if I say yes or no."

## Shooting star

The award for the most sensitive Christmas card this year goes to Armscor, the South African armaments manufacturer. It extends "Compliments of the Season" alongside a glossy picture of its most-used product: an Olifant tank.

## Fame at last

Who is this Richard Drabble, the barrister who successfully staved off the government appeal against the illegality of its board and lodging regulations last Friday? Firstly he is a very effective thorn in the side of the government. On Friday he also obtained leave for Camden council to challenge to government housing regulations. He won a separate but related case for another claimant. In the past he has taken Patrick Jenkin, then health minister, to court over a plan to call in commissioners to run Lewisham health authority, won a case against the government on invalid care allowance, and defended the rights of GCHQ Cheltenham employees to belong to unions. Secondly he is the brother of novelist Margaret Drabble and A. S. Byatt. He doesn't admit it, but he is enjoying a belated share of the limelight.



## Kush-Kush

Diners who enjoyed "mountain goat" at London's Zanzibar restaurant the other night might be interested in its provenance. It was one of four hairy, horned Tibetan goats kept at Nostley Hall near Market Harborough, the last descendants of some 20 such goats brought back from the Himalayas in the mid-19th century by the traveller and collector Arthur Hazlerigg. Hazlerigg's great-grandson of the same name tells me the goats had become "nothing but a bloody nuisance" - interbred, oddly-shaped and rogey. "I ended up with the dogs." The other three are to be sold at Melton Mowbray market, with Indian restaurateurs the likely buyers.

● Still on food, I have received a letter from a Nigerian newspaper that reveals a curious culinary sense of priorities. The opening paragraph reads: "Parts of a missing six-year-old boy were found in a pot of soup at the weekend. It was a pepper soup."

## Clywd-less

Labour MP Ann Clywd is likely to be reported to the House today for deliberately absenting herself yesterday from a meeting of the private bill committee considering an extension to Felixstowe docks. With one of the four-man committee legitimately absent, Ms Clywd stood up announced that she was on the standing committee dealing with the gas bill and that her duty to her constituents came first, and departed - leaving the committee inquorate and numerous silks and petitioners kicking their heels. Labour MPs, who resent time spent on such committees and who believe this particular bill is a ruse to avoid a public inquiry, are right behind Ms Clywd, but I fear she is in for trouble. She has already been reported once for leaving the committee to ask a question in the House (although unpunished, the Speaker rejected her plea that constituents' interests came first). Yesterday she declared she would be absent again if the interests of her constituents dictated.

# Laws the unions would welcome

by David Basnett

It is time the unions set out their views on a legal framework in which industrial relations can best be made to work. In doing so we shall have to perform several balancing acts: the needs of trade unionists against those of the individual in his or her roles as voter, parent, consumer and voter; individual rights and collective rights.

This will require far-ranging discussion, conducted and led by the TUC, that must not be diverted by short-term issues such as government cash for ballots. The fundamental questions are about ballots themselves: who pays is one mere nut among many bolts.

Unions need the law to help them to bargain collectively and effectively on behalf of their members. Any new laws would gain both their justification and their legitimacy from this prime objective - one that applies to every other industrialized nation. New laws should also provide protection and rights for individual workers where collective bargaining may be inappropriate.

We all want effective bargaining. We all want stability and as much protection for the individual as possible. There is a substantial basis for agreement, both inside and outside the union movement.

The government's policy has been

to remove many of the legal immunities which unions have had for almost 80 years, leaving them open to an increasing number of legal attacks. I favour restoring immunities for two reasons:

● Everyone, unions and management, is comfortable with them;

● It would be impossible to define in advance all the courses of action open to a trade union. We would run the danger of Parliament having to legislate to close loopholes every six months.

If immunities were restored why not buttress them by a set of positive rights for individuals? It is here that we must balance effective collective freedom with individual freedom.

There is more than a degree of urgency in this matter. The TUC needs a well-thought-out series of proposals for the next election, probably only 18 months away.

The first consideration is the law of injunction. It seems easier today to get an injunction against a union than to get a ticket on the London Underground. We should work for a fairer administration of justice. We do not want favours, only equal treatment. When injunctions are handed down to employers like Santa giving sweets to children something is very wrong.

The legal system is based on conflict, deciding who is right, who is wrong and apportioning blame. Industrial relations need conciliation, arbitration and wisdom. That is something that judges cannot deliver in any impartial or expert way.

The second consideration is ballots. It has always been good union practice to hold a ballot before a strike. It strengthens the hand of unions if it is affirmative, if negative it prevents expense and humiliation.

Any new law, however, must recognize that there will be times when a ballot is impractical - when, for example, workers walk out as a result of a bad decision by management.

The public is now concerned about elections for union executives and we cannot hope simply to reverse the law in cavalier style. We should, however, be telling our members and the public that democracy is more than a matter of discontinuous votes put into ballot boxes. The Cabinet does not hold a referendum before taking an important decision; we expect it to decide as our democratically elected representatives. The same should apply to the workings of trade unions.

We must also decide what to do about positive legislation affirming collective rights in matters like union recognition. The 1975 legislation failed in this respect. We must learn from this and adopt a more unconventional approach.

We might have legislation which extended an individual's right to time off for union training, for union activities in working hours and the right of a full-time official to visit him or her on site, irrespective of whether the union was recognized by the employer.

It might also be possible to introduce disincentives, such as no government contracts, reduced tax relief or withholding various status arrangements, against companies which refused to give recognition in reasonable circumstances, or refused to abide by the individual rights provisions. A TUC or ACAS code of practice would be useful here.

At the nub of our arguments must be the restoration of effective collective bargaining for the benefit of the community as a whole. If we can be convincing on that score it would be a foolhardy act by any political party to reject the proposals out of hand.

The author is general secretary of the General, Municipal and Boilers Makers Allied Trades Union and a member of the National Economic Development Council.

## East-West relations: Roger Boyes on the post-summit reality

### Over the thaw, a long Moscow shadow

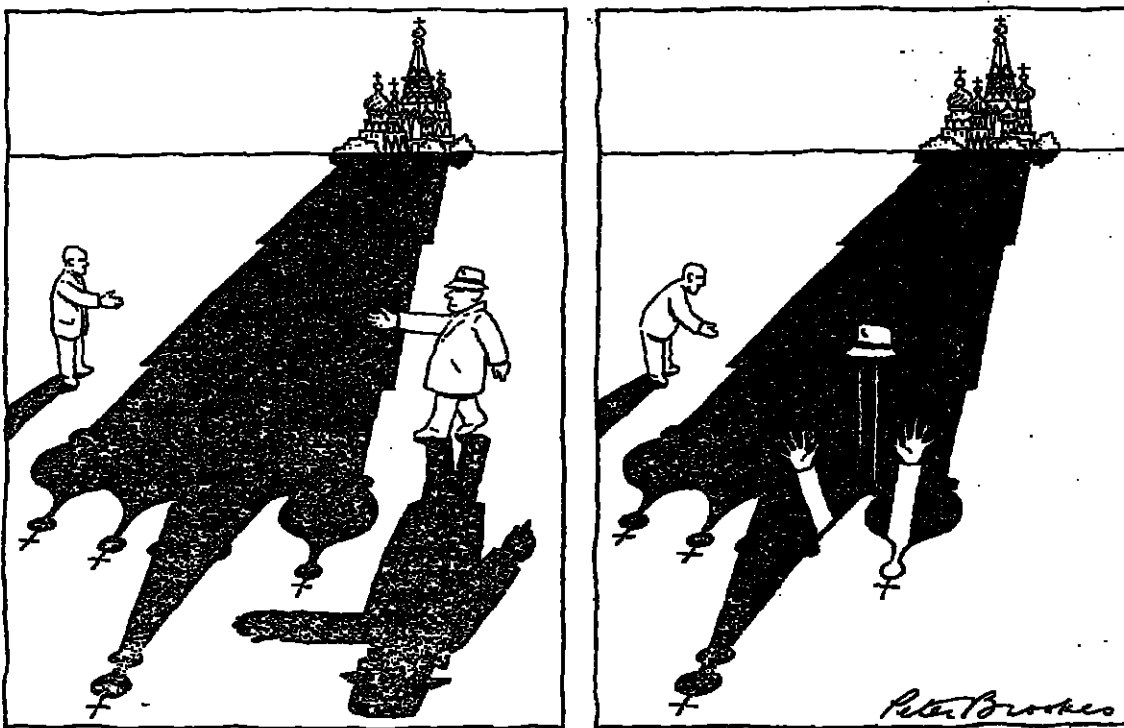
Warsaw Diplomacy across the European divide is increasingly resembling a sophisticated, slightly shady export-import business in which sleek men clutching credit cards and briefcases bustle in and out of airports in the name of a deal that is never struck. The Geneva summit has given the green light for intensified East-West travelling.

After the visits by George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, to Bucharest and Budapest - he is now in Yugoslavia and flies home today - leaders of East Germany, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary are preparing to step westward. Erich Honecker of East Germany and Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria had both cancelled planned trips to Bonn under Soviet pressure; both are now on the cards again.

General Jaruzelski of Poland, according to his aides, broke an important barrier with his recent back-dro trip to the Elysee Palace and hopes to follow it up with other, more substantial visits to the West. Janos Kadar of Hungary is still recovering from his visit to Sainsbury's, but missions to the West by his foreign minister and more senior members of the leadership are already being prepared.

Poland is also trying to sidestep the Western boycott of the Jaruzelski leadership by cultivating ties between West European and Polish parliaments and parties. About 500 West German social democrats recently travelled to Poland and Warsaw has become an important cornerstone for those SPD deputies, such as Willy Brandt, who advocate an alternative West German foreign policy. On a smaller scale, but still remarkable, a delegation of eight Polish deputies will visit the House of Commons next February.

It is a sign of the times that both East Germany and Poland felt strong enough to discard well-known sceptics of Westpolitik. Honecker has managed to displace the ideologist, Berlin party chief Konrad Naumann and in Poland the foreign minister, Stefan Olszowski, resigned "to concentrate on his writing". But there are still strong internal and external restraints on



East European relations with the West. These have to be studied carefully if the West is accurately to gauge the value of a new round of Ostpolitik.

It was Andrei Gromyko, now Soviet president, who persuaded Honecker and Zhivkov to shelve their visits to Bonn. He argued that Moscow had to have full control of relations with the West, otherwise pressure on Washington would be diluted. The Geneva summit has taken some, though not all, of the steam from this argument.

Various articles in the Soviet press have obscured rather than clarified Moscow's position, but the basic post-Geneva guidelines passed down through the Communist Party machinery seem to read as follows:

● Top-level contacts with the West are again acceptable, but there must also be clear ideological demarcation. These contacts should be "realistic", that is, with low expectations and without preliminary flirtation.

● The West must not be given further economic leverage in the Soviet bloc. Grigory Romanov made this point as the Kremlin's delegate to the Hungarian party congress earlier this year. He approved the Hungarian reforms - with a reminder that they had been made possible only with Soviet assistance - but emphasized that decentralization and changes designed to boost productivity should not make communist states more dependent on the economic and political whims of the West. Despite Romanov's subsequent ousting

from the Politburo, this remains Kremlin policy.

● Small nations have a role to play in easing international tension but no member of the Warsaw Pact should try to become an independent bridge between East and West. In other words, by all means talk, but don't start public lobbying.

That does not represent a radical departure from previous policy, which in this area is still being shaped by men who served during the latter part of the Brezhnev regime, under Andropov and Chernenko. The difference is that the Gorbachov leadership is strong enough to be consistent (East European allies profited from the weakness of earlier leaders and started to develop their own ideas) and has fully understood the dangers of a détente that comes bearing easy credits.

East European relations with the West will be judged on a case-by-case basis. It is tolerable for General Jaruzelski to be lectured on human rights by President Mitterrand because the rewards were disproportionately higher. Poland broke out of its diplomatic isolation, was received at home by a Nato leader. But do the same rules apply to Prague? Could Moscow accept a chastisement of the Husak leadership on Western territory for no real gain? One thinks not. It is significant that the one Warsaw Pact country not caught up in travel fever is Czechoslovakia.

Schultz's visit to Bucharest in particular underlined the dangers perceived by Moscow. He linked the

continuation of Romania's most favoured nation trading status with more liberal human rights and emigration policies. With Poland about to rejoin the International Monetary Fund, that does not augur well for Kremlin policy-makers. Will Washington try to use the IMF to put pressure on Jaruzelski?

The Gorbachov era is proving extraordinarily complicated for Moscow's partners. Caught between the need to look West and to the West's internal discipline in the Warsaw Pact, under constant pressure not only to explain to the Kremlin but also to argue their case with the precision of defence lawyers, East European leaders are approaching their visits to the capitalist world with distinct anxiety. They pack their bags and travel hopefully, but there is almost no substance to their discussions.

A stress is felt in both East and West to produce results, to show that the new détente is based on real advantage rather than mirages. Hence the rumours, heard in both Paris and Warsaw, that Mitterrand had asked Jaruzelski to help Soviet Jews to leave the West. This seems improbable. The only visit likely to yield firm humanitarian concessions is that of Honecker to West Germany. Between Bonn and East Berlin there are long-established channels of conciliation, involving the selling of East German political prisoners and the granting of West German credits. But even in this corner of the East-West dialogue the initiative rests firmly with Moscow. Only Gorbachov can control the pace of the thaw.

## Love for a land that badly needs it

Bogota As a young man he decided that if he couldn't become a writer he wanted to be "the man at the piano, whose face nobody ever sees, playing just so that lovers may love each other more". But Gabriel Garcia Marquez, now 57, did become a writer, one of the most of them in a charming small town once known as Armero, now obliterated and called the "Pompeii of the Andes".

There are no signs that Colombia's suffering is over. The Nevado is still active and could erupt again. The same can be said of the political volcano which has already destroyed the once great promise of the Betancur administration. Spiralling subversive violence seems sure to continue to threaten Latin America's most durable, perhaps imperfect, but nevertheless functioning democracy as the nation staggers to the presidential election next May to choose Betancur's successor.

Against this background the new Garcia Marquez novel has come as a welcome boost to Colombia's shattered morale. It is set in his traditional literary territory, his native Caribbean region. It spans 480 pages and some 80 years. It is no ordinary love story. His lovers wait "51 years, nine months and four days" before they finally declare their love after decades of cholera outbreaks and bloody civil wars.

The book is a celebration of his parents' love and happy marriage and his own marriage to his childhood sweetheart Mercedes, a remarkable woman whose careful management of the family's precarious budget smoothed the way to his success as a writer in the difficult early years.

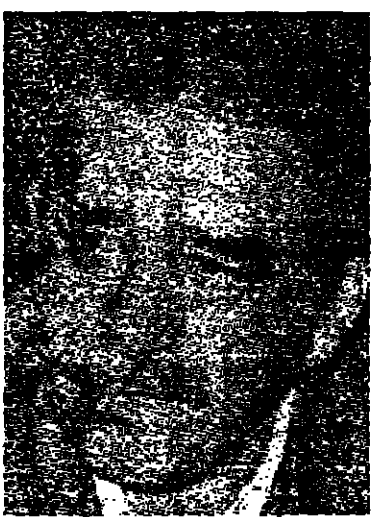
initiative to forge peace with the nation's various guerrilla groups seemingly in ashes.

The nation had barely recovered its equilibrium when the Nevado Ruiz erupted. In the ensuing floods and avalanches 23,000 people, most of them in a charming small town once known as Armero, now obliterated and called the "Pompeii of the Andes".

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Garcia Marquez celebrating two happy marriages

Critics here have hailed the new novel as Garcia Marquez's most profound work, but one senses that it perhaps also represents an effort by the writer finally to make his peace with his own country. There was pride of course over the Nobel prize, but in Colombia he has sometimes seemed its prodigal rather than favourite son.

Like many other Latin American writers, he has spent most of his adult life in exile, living in Spain, France and Mexico, while cultivating such a close relationship with Fidel Castro that in Bogota he has been dubbed "Nuestro Hombre en la Habana" (a tag which, as a friend and admirer of Graham Greene, probably pleases him no end).

The friendship with Castro is mutually deep and genuine, according to Colombian journalist Plinio Apuleyo Mendoza, who travelled with Garcia Marquez to Cuba after the revolution. In the early 1970s Mendoza and other intellectuals broke with Havana, charging that the regime had become totalitarian.

Garcia Marquez stayed aboard, arguing (by Mendoza's account) that "on our Latin American menu there are but two kinds of soup: one which contains an element of freedom but in which there are enormous injustices (children die of hunger, people have no hospitals, there's illiteracy) and another in which there is no freedom but in which such problems have been resolved."

His often bizarre political pronouncements, combined with his sunny Caribbean spontaneity, humour and colourful language, have not always gone down well in Bogota. But now his politics seem to have mellowed. He has broadly supported the Betancur government, but thinks, probably with reason, that the nation will tilt to the right after the next election. Given the belligerence of M-19, now apparently hellbent on self-destruction, that seems inevitable.

Meanwhile, first edition collectors should rush to Colombia. At his own expense, he is paying for the printing of 1,000 special first editions of his new novel, each of which he is personally signing. They will be sold for 10,000 pesos (about £400) each, the proceeds going to an appeal fund for new housing for the thousands left homeless by the disaster.

Geoffrey Matthews

Peter Kellner

## Holly and the hiving off

It was Christmas Eve at No 10 and the Chancellor was upset. What a day to bring the Prime Minister such bad news, he mused; but she had given him his orders a few days earlier. "Nigel, with the price of oil down and the pound weak, I want to know whether we can still cut taxes next spring. Ask the Treasury computer and let me see the results as soon as possible."

Having no respect for the festive season, the computer duly obliged. At noon on December 24 it started churning out the answers, and Lawson obediently took them to Mrs Thatcher. "It looks grim, Prime Minister," he said. "The only way we can still reduce taxes is if we flog more of the silv - I mean, step up our privatization programme."

Mrs Thatcher was digesting this news when one of her officials came in and whispered in her ear. "I'll be back in a moment Nigel," she said. "It's those carol singers - I must go now or the pictures won't get on the early evening news bulletins."

When she returned minutes later her eyes looked colder than ever. "Those carols are subversive, Nigel. Did you know that *The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay?* What about industrious, hardworking shepherds who had fulfilled their European sheepmeat quotas - why should the angels discriminate against them?"

Prime Minister, Bethlehem isn't in Europe, and anyway the Common Market wasn't in existence.

"Stop being pedantic, Nigel. It's the underlying message that worries me - so full of socialist nonsense, dressed up as religion. Listen to this: I bet the Bishop of Durham wrote it himself. *Therefore Christian men be sure - wealth or rank possessing - ye, who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.* Nothing there about financial incentives or the need to find real jobs. In fact, the carols don't put over our ideas at all. The government ought to do something about it."

Lawson, anxious to change the subject, muttered something under his breath. "What was that, Nigel? Speak up."

"I said, we could privatize Christmas," Lawson's voice dripped with irony.

"Nigel, what a brilliant idea," responded the Prime Minister, without any irony at all. "Now I come to think about it, Christmas is one of those creaky old national institutions that have brought Britain to its knees. If we could sell it off we could have our tax cuts next spring and make Britain more efficient."

"I'm not sure I follow you."

"It's simple. We shall apply market forces to the Christmas message, so that entrepreneurial competition decides what it should be. Take the story of the Nativity, for example. Why should we accept on the basis of some pretty dubious historical evidence that Mary and Joseph ended up in a manger? It sounds too much like all that namby-pamby inner-city nonsense

that the Church of England has been spouting.

"Isn't it just as likely that rational expectations operated in the Bethlehem bed-and-breakfast market? For all we know, some former fishermen used their redundancy money to open up new inns to handle the extra demand. People should have the choice to decide which Nativity story to read."

"I'm not sure it's as easy as that. There are all sorts of things about Christmas which are special. It's the season of goodwill, for example. How would market forces deal with that?"

"Goodwill? Goodwill? Do you realize how silly that is? The government loses by not taxing goodwill? There is so much of it slopping around but the Inland Revenue doesn't see a penny. What's more, goodwill is often distributed free, and you know what that means, don't you, Nigel?"

"Prime Minister?"

"It is distributed very inefficiently. Britain is suffering from a serious miscalculation of goodwill. It should be bought and sold - and taxed - like everything else. It would then find its own price level. Let the laws of supply and demand operate, and ignore the moaning minnies."

"There is one problem, Prime Minister. The government can privatize only what it already owns. Are you sure we own Christmas?"

"My goodness, Nigel, that's the least of our problems. If we can sell the Trustee Savings Bank and ride roughshod over its depositors, privatizing Christmas should be easy. Besides, it's obvious that people like Father Christmas are civil servants."

"What do you mean, Prime Minister, obvious?"

"Just look at the way he works. Lazing around all the year, then dashing around on a single night delivering presents that won't last to children who haven't paid for them. Father Christmas is clearly a DHSS official who has taken welfare state wastefulness to new extremes. I intend putting a special section about Father Christmas in the Privatization Bill."

"That will be the 'Santa's clause, I suppose'."

"Nigel, this is no time for your silly jokes. Don't you see, I have a vision for Christmas. Under private enterprise, December 25 will lose its monopoly. The Nativity story will be subject to competition. The Office of Fair Trading will regulate the supply of goodwill. People will celebrate Christmas as often as they choose. Why should the state insist that people mark it exactly once a year, in the middle of winter, whether they want to or not? Off you go, Nigel. I want a draft Bill on my desk by tomorrow."

"Tomorrow, Prime Minister?"

"Yes, Nigel, tomorrow, December 25. We need to set a good example, and I mean to start now. Christmas Day? Goodwill to all? Presents? Bah, humbug."

The author is political editor of the New Statesman.

moreover... Miles Kingston

## Tracking down the drama coach

I was in a high-speed train the other day, stuck for half an hour in the middle of nowhere, with the dark landscape all around us. I was just about to ask the man next to me if I could borrow his car magazine - I was that desperate for entertainment - when the intercom crackled into life and the inspector's voice was heard.

"Ladies and gentlemen, Inspector Tranter here. You may have seen me passing among you just now, inspecting your wickets. Well, I have some news for you. I was not inspecting your tickets. I was treating you all as suspects in an investigation. The fact of the matter is that the buffet steward, Mr Oscar Threadgold, has been murdered. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, he has been found dead in his kitchen, stabbed to death with a little plastic knife, and one of you on the train is the murderer."

Most of us leapt to our feet in a meaningless panic, but we were arrested by the calm incisive tones of the intercom. We sank back again.

"Please just stay where you are and listen to what I have to say. There are 359 of you on the train, and one of you is a killer. Now, in an old-fashioned mystery, I would be able to gather ten of you in the library and then explain which one had done the crime. This, for obvious reasons, is impossible. There is no library on ER trains. And even if there were, there would not be room for 359 of you. So you must stay where you are and listen to me."

"First of all, we must look for a motive. Well, I do not think in the case of a buffet steward that we have very far to look. Every one of us must now and then have been driven mad by the slowness of service, the absence of toasted sandwiches, the strange taste of the coffee or the price we have to pay for it. What more obvious than to stab the author of your discomfort? On this count alone, each and every one of you is a suspect."

Secondly, opportunity. Again, surprisingly easy. All you have to do is slip through the private side door into the kitchen and grab the steward. Then you put on his uniform, go out and close down the buffet, before going back to your seat, confident in the knowledge that the body would not be discovered before Kings Cross. You were not to know that he had invited me in for a quiet scotch. When I arrived for my

well-earned drink, I found Oscar lying as cold and inert as a scotch egg. I immediately instructed the driver to stop while I conducted my investigations.

"Which brings me to the third factor in any murder investigation: my own personal intuition and deduction. I immediately discounted some of the more obvious suspects: the twenty football fans travelling in Coach D, the various gentlemen reading the *Guardian* (far too respectable for a murder), the people reading car magazines (far too boring for a killing), the students travelling without a valid ticket, who would never have drawn attention to themselves if planning a murder, and so on. Having eliminated all the innocent people, I was left with nine strong suspects."

Everyone, as far as the eye could see, looked at each other with the utmost distrust.

"But which of the nine? Well, I had one further clue to go on. Clutched in Oscar's hand was a half a toasted bacon sandwich. The murderer had clearly taken the other half in the mortal struggle. And one of those nine suspects had a still unconsumed bacon sandwich on his table. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the killer, in Coach E, was... Ah! It's you! No, don't touch me..."

Killed, all 358 of us listened to the blood-curdling screams of the ticket inspector as he was murdered over the intercom. I would have rushed to help him, but, like the other 357, I had no idea where he was. It was ghastly. It was like listening to a radio play which suddenly turns into terrible truth. Then the intercom crackled into life again.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you have been listening to a pre-recorded British Rail entertainment designed to amuse you for ten minutes while we sit in the middle of nowhere. We hope that this small drama has passed the time. We shall shortly be moving off, if not, we shall be reading you a complete *Mills and Boon* novel in five minutes' time."

I am bound to record that the whole train burst into spontaneous applause. Myself included. But was British Rail really justified in playing fast and loose with our emotions like that? I think perhaps they were. But I still wish they had used the Arts Council grant to get the train moving earlier. What do other train travellers think? Please write and let me know.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## UNCLEAN AIR

The tone of public life is a subject upon which politicians like to speak but which political analysts find hard to define. It is an intangible. Yet most people know quite well what it means. It is therefore a political reality.

A Government's survival at a general election may turn not only on the balance sheet of its direct achievements and failures but also on public perception of the rectitude of people and institutions important in the life of the nation - even where the Government itself may have no clear or direct responsibility. This is particularly the case where there is the least suspicion that a government is taking a casual attitude to what is seen as in any sense scandalous.

As ministers and MPs prepare for their Christmas holidays there is talk once again of the effect the post-Franks period had on the standing of the Macmillan government. Old political chestnuts are being reheated - with reminders of how the Tories under Lord Home might well have deprived Labour of its 1964 victory if the atmosphere had not gone sour in the final Macmillan years, and had it not been for what Harold Wilson dubbed the "candy-floss society" when too much money was too easily made.

Lord Wilson, of course, eventually suffered from a different sort of scandal, the persistent irresponsibility of the trade unions, with which the Government repeatedly sought deals to prevent the erosion of money values. The scandal of union power and the Danegeld paid to it by the Government also destroyed the Callaghan administration in 1979. In the years between these periods of Labour power, Mr Heath's Government was undoubtedly harmed by the property boom and by the quick fortunes made from easy money at a time when the government was both presiding over inflation and trying to counteract it by wage controls.

The arrival of Mrs Thatcher, first as Conservative leader, then as Prime Minister, marked an instinct for change from the exploded fashions and dogmas of the Sixties and Seventies, and the wish for more responsible society. The Government risked its own neck by the rigours that were inseparable from the attempt to restore responsible financial management to the nation's affairs - and was rewarded by a second term. It also sought, and still seeks, a society in which individuals can take greater responsibility and are challenged to act more responsibly.

That is the case for privatisation, and removing the dead (and commercially irresponsible) hand of bureaucracy from state industries. That case also, however, includes an obligation to do whatever is necessary to see that free markets are properly regulated to prevent their distortion by malpractice or corruption.

It is against this background that Mrs Thatcher now has to take into account some deeply worrying discords in the tone of public life which could seriously damage public perceptions of the government. The Prime Minister herself has always been conscious of the damage done to the health of the Government by the consequences of too easy money. She is known to be worried by the excessive charges which the City has made for its services, and by some of the high pay increases awarded to themselves by top industrialists at a time when moderate attitudes towards wages are essential for the maintenance of economic recovery. All this, however, is right outside the Government's control, and part of it stems from the sheer speed and vigour of the international financial markets of which London is so profitable a centre. Nonetheless confidence in the system depends very much on those who operate it, though how they behave inevitably to some extent rubs off on the Government.

A much greater danger to the Government is fraud. For here the Government has both a direct responsibility to see that the law is strong enough to deal with it and that offences are quickly and effectively prosecuted. Moreover, the Government is particularly at risk because it is so directly identified with the success of the City as a major world financial capital and as a wealth-earner. The financial collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers, the clear evidence of inadequate Bank of England supervision at an early stage, and the lack of information given to Treasury ministers is the most obvious case.

Damage has also been done to financial confidence by the continuing repercussions of the scandals that affected some Lloyd's syndicates, in which matter the Government's stance has hardly been helped by the disclosure that the Tory Party's deputy chairman, Mr Jeffrey Archer, has provided a reference for the suspended underwriter, Mr Ian Posgate in his attempt to return to the insurance market.

The Government's Financial Services Bill, which is to be published this week, will strengthen the powers of fraud investigators but the wide question is whether City markets should be self-regulated (the basis of the Bill) or governed by a statutory body. That is a question that can be discussed here when the Bill is published. For the moment it is enough to note the dramatic allegations (under Parliamentary privilege) sprayed around by the Labour MP, Mr Brian Sedgmore. However overt his political motives, he has successfully reinforced in the public's mind the impression that the Government has not done all that it should in these matters.

This impression is bound to be strengthened by the doubts

raised (and debated in the Commons yesterday) over the disclosures of MPs' outside interests. These doubts have been strengthened by the involvement of a significant number (nearly 40) of MPs and peers (principally Conservative) in consortia competing for the Channel Tunnel contract. Allegations have also been made about the involvement of a junior minister's family stock-broking firm in the sale of Cable & Wireless shares. It is becoming very clear that it is essential for the Government and its party to wash whiter than white, and above all that all private interests should be fully in the light of day.

For many of these disparate situations the government has no direct or moral responsibility. Some of the institutions concerned (Lloyd's and the tin market, for instance) have functioned for decades without apparent need for anxiety. Yet all in all an atmosphere has been created which is potentially damaging to the government. It can no longer assume that the "City", now at the centre of vast international markets, can function by the gentlemanly codes which have sufficed so far.

It also, however, has a question of tone to think about in its own image. It may be in some danger of adopting self-damaging political tactics. The other day, Mr Norman Tebbit got into a verbal brawl with Mr Kinnock and the Labour Party when, in debate on the inner cities, he glibly at the Labour leader's attempts (while wishing him well) to defeat the Liverpool Militants. It is probably true that Labour was bent on trouble that night. It may be true, as Conservatives believe, that Labour is so frightened of the popular appeal of Mr Tebbit's recent criticisms of the permissive society that they are determined to discredit him.

Yet Mr Tebbit and other ministers would be wise to ask themselves whether it is really good tactics to engage in this kind of rough-and-tumble in a debate on a subject which the public takes very seriously; whether even the Government might, by playing rough, give the false impression that it was becoming nervous. Governments prosper best when they rise above opposition cut-and-thrust tactics. Their job first and foremost is to keep their dignity and put their own house in order.

The whiff of malodour in public life just now is not directly attributable to the Government. But that does not mean Mrs Thatcher can safely ignore it. It may be tempting to do so while the public opinion polls are favourable enough and the opposition parties so obviously lack credibility. But if the mood of the country turns against the Government, what now seems so intangible could be Mrs Thatcher's greatest danger.

## Monopoly powers and contracts

From the Director of the Construction Plant-hire Association

Sir, In today's article (December 11) by Bernard Levin I see that once again attention is being drawn to non-commercial conditions attaching to contracts.

You are quite rightly highlighting the disgraceful attitude of the GLC to contracts for concert performance in the South Bank theatre. This association has frequently drawn attention to similar abuses of the near-monopoly power in respect of local authority contracts, and we welcome the announcement early this year that Government intended to legislate against such practices.

Most notorious amongst these are:

1. The issue by the GLC of a questionnaire comprising 117 questions, almost all of which related to non-commercial matters, which had to be answered by all contractors who wished to be included or retained on the council's approved list; and the establishment by the GLC of "contract compliance units" to ensure that contractors comply with the council's own policy on, e.g., trade union rights, women's rights and the employment of racial minorities.

2. The exclusion by Peterborough Council from its tender list of all building contractors who had helped to construct the defence installations at Molesworth.

3. The demands by a number of local authorities, such as Bristol City Council, for information from contractors on whether and to what extent they have business links with South Africa, with an implication of exclusion from the council's tender list of those that have such links.

May I through your columns, seek support for our condemnation of the recent *vote-bribe* by the Government (and the low-key way in which the U-turn in policy was announced) and the suggestion that there are now sufficient common-law remedies for anyone who feels aggrieved at this misuse of power by local authorities.

We would suggest that remedies of more certainty than appeals to the House of Lords ought to be available; that the Government was right in its initial approach to proposed legislation; and that non-commercial conditions applied to South Bank contracts are merely the last outbreak of disease in a canker which will spread the length and breadth of the country if not checked.

The right way to check the misuse of power is to legislate against it. Yours faithfully, N. G. ALLEN, Director, The Construction Plant-hire Association, 28 Eccleston Street, SW1, December 11.

## Surgeons' difficulties

From the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Sir, A little learning is a dangerous thing, particularly when it derives from statistical analyses (*The Times*, November 9 and 25). Let us therefore consider a few established facts.

We have one of the lowest, and in some disciplines the lowest, proportion of surgeons per 100,000 population among any comparable country in the Western world, and fewer general surgeons now than in 1975. The vast majority of our surgeons work many hours in excess of their contractual obligations but, despite the manifold deficiencies of the National Health Service, they have maintained standards of surgical practice which remain among the highest in the world.

Furthermore, the state of some hospitals in which these standards have been achieved leaves much to be desired. Most are more than 50 years old; many were built in the last century or before and, frankly, are obsolete. The operating theatres, vital support services and laboratories are frequently ill-sited, understaffed and inadequately equipped for present-day requirements. All these factors adversely affect efficiency.

Surgeons do endeavour to treat their patients as expeditiously as circumstances permit, but their attempts to do so are increasingly frustrated by managerial instructions to reduce their workload, curtail operating lists and close beds on the grounds of financial stringency.

Little, if any, of this information, which is well known to the ministers concerned, is revealed by the statistics. However, it is against this background that your readers should formulate their opinions as to where the real responsibilities lie for the present inadequacies in the NHS. Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY SLANEY, President, The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, December 16.

## Children in care

From the Director General of the International Hospital Federation

Sir, Few would argue against having better qualified social workers. There are also arguments in favour of using less qualified community health and social workers (CHWs) organised for neighbourhoods or patches of up to 500 families/2,500 people in defined geographical areas, with the CHWs being locally recruited from and being of the same colour and culture as the people they serve.

This patchwork approach has been used very successfully in such places as Mexico City and Manila. One of the countries that pioneered the concept is Costa Rica, and there the infant mortality rate has declined over the past 10 years to the stage where it is the lowest in continental Latin America and

## Future of the Church of England

From the Reverend Giles Hunt

Sir, No doubt you will receive many letters indignantly repudiating Clifford Longley's analysis (December 11, 12) of the Church of England's lack of backbone. Emperors must always be cross and embarrassed when someone points out that they have no clothes. So, to redress the balance, may I thank him for saying things that have needed to be said; ever since synodical government started to bite 10 or 12 years ago, there has been a loss of credibility, and of confidence, that has taken its toll.

But Mr Longley has omitted to mention one crucial factor which both caused the relative decline of the Church of England and at the same time gives ground for hope, and indeed for legitimate pride.

Vatican II gave to Roman Catholics precisely those reforms that the Church of England won over 400 years ago; it is pardonable for Anglicans to point to the preface of the Book of Common Prayer ("Concerning the services of the Church") and "Of ceremonies; why some be abolished and some retained" and say, "I told you so".

Since Vatican II Rome has cleared the cobwebs away; vernacular liturgy, and an emphasis on the importance of the Bible, even (though Hans King may have reservations about this) an openness to academic freedom can now be found within the Church of Rome as well as the Church of England.

It is not arrogant for Anglicans to take pride in having given Rome a lead! But we do now need the humility and common sense to recognise that Vatican II had removed most of the *raison d'être* for the existence of Anglicanism as a separate entity; and in particular, for the Samueli and Cupiti (Mr Longley's categories) to recognise that the notion of the Church's authority, its magisterium, is not an alternative to the authority of the Bible or of the human mind and conscience, but is complementary to them both.

Yours faithfully, GILES HUNT, St Catherine's Vicarage, Preston Lane, Faversham, Kent, December 12.

From the Reverend J. V. Stewart

Sir, I liked your Religious Affairs Correspondent Clifford Longley's article today (December 12) "Keeping God's house in order." He is probably right to imply that, even if the Church of England were not to be disestablished, it would simply continue to be morally "established" by a widespread force of public opinion and affection.

Disestablishment is another issue. I wonder if the most helpful way forward - to cleanse rather than to abolish the establishment - might not be for the Church to seek from Parliament a new application of its financial resources.

A much greater part of the commissioners' income - after meeting the cost of pensions, etc - could be directed towards areas of urgent need, such indeed as the urban priority areas. In great sections of England parishes are asked to stand entirely on their

own feet, as Anglicans have to do in most other parts of the world and as most non-Anglicans have to do in England. Then a greater measure of reality might set in.

If people want their parish churches, then they must pay for them in full. If dioceses want their cathedrals, then they, too, must pay. All comparable experience suggests that such a situation is likely to strengthen rather than to weaken the spiritual life and the regular worship of the Christian communities involved.

Yours sincerely, JOHN STEWART, Editor, *New Fire*, 22 Great College Street, SW1, December 12.

From the Reverend D. T. W. Price

Sir, Clifford Longley's question (December 12), "Without Parliament and the Crown, is there even such a thing as Anglicanism?", is astonishing. Does not the existence of the worldwide Anglican Communion provide an affirmative answer?

I urge Mr Longley to make the short journey to Wales, where he will find a disestablished, indigenous, and wholly authentic Anglican Church, a Church of which I am proud to be a member, and which is at least as effective in Welsh life as is our privileged sister in England.

The Church in Wales, moreover, contains, even within a few miles of Lampeter, clergymen - all undoubtedly Anglicans without establishment - who are more Evangelical than Dr Samuel, more Anglo-Catholic (or Cambro-Catholic) than Fr Geldart, and almost as "liberal" as Mr Cupitt. Yours faithfully, D. T. W. PRICE, Bodlondeb, 65 Bridge Street, Lampeter, Dyfed, December 12.

From Mr Bart Harrington

Sir, Clifford Longley's articles on the Church of England serve to show how perceptively prophetic G. K. Chesterton was when he wrote in 1930 of its ability to co-exist with Doubt but not with Faith. Has anything changed since then? Yours sincerely, BART HARRINGTON, 9 Hillcrest Road, Great Crosby, Liverpool, December 14.

From Mr Adrian Dodd-Noble

Sir, The first article on the Church by your Religious Affairs Correspondent (December 11) prompts me to suggest that all clerics, like earthquakes, should be classified according to, perhaps, the Longley scale.

We would then know whether to expect Bells and Snells or Fire and Brimstone. Or would the Beaufort scale be better than the Richter scale in these turbulent times? I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ADRIAN DODD-NOBLE, Keenleyside Hill, Alledale, Hexham, Northumberland, December 12.

## Crumbling morality

From Mr Ken Gladdish

Sir, So Lord Hailham agrees with Norman Tebbit that riots are the result of human wickedness (report, December 12). A robust view, but one which doesn't clarify why they occur in places like Brixton, Toxteth, Handsworth or Tottenham rather than Tonbridge, Virginia Water, Reigate or Hampstead.

Wickedness is presumably distributed among us without regard to locality. If, therefore, in the residential suburbs it is expressed in tax evasion and fraud, whilst in the inner cities it is manifested by throwing petrol bombs at the police, there would seem to be some environmental factors at work.

Both forms of wickedness could be said to threaten the fabric of our society; but one hears few calls for more social control in the residential suburbs.

Yours sincerely, KEN GLADDISH, Union College of Reading, Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, Department of Politics, Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire, December 13.

## Politics by punch-up

From Mrs Peggy Musson

Sir, Mr Alan Smith (December 13) seems to think that the so-called loyalists who attacked Mr Tom King in Belfast represented the majority in Ulster.

There are non-ranting, non-marching, long-suffering taxpayers here, too, who also have the agony of watching on television this false picture of what Ulstermen are really

better than in some cities in the USA and Europe.

Basic to the system is the preparation, by CHWs working under professional supervision, of a community map for each patch. This shows all dwelling places and other buildings and is accompanied by simple statistical and other information about standards of housing, sanitation, social conditions, etc, and listings of the main causes of death and morbidity for that particular community.

The basic information gathered from each patch is aggregated to form the basis for a community programme of priorities or targets for action to improve standards of health and social welfare, with particular emphasis upon the promotion of health and prevention of illness.

The CHWs work with teams of doctors, nurses and social workers based on a network of health posts

## ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 18 1894

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh on November 13, 1850. With his mother, wife and stepson he settled in Samoa in 1890. He died there on December 3, 1894. During his years in Samoa he wrote a number of letters to *The Times* criticising the local officials.

## DEATH OF MR. R. L. STEVENSON

APLA, Dec. 8. Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson, the well-known novelist, has died suddenly of apoplexy. He was buried at the summit of Paik Mountain, 1,900ft. above the sea-level.

The death leaves a melancholy blank in the literary world. We regret Mr. Stevenson selflessly as well as sincerely, because there is no one left who can even approximately fill his place. He had the instincts and susceptibilities of a born man of letters, and it is noteworthy that his earliest productions were not the least finished of his work. His most marked characteristics were distinctly his own, which is only another way of saying that he had rare and special genius. Though he had innumerable admirers in his own craft animated by laudable ambition, few would have predicted that the viraculous author of the uneventful "Inland Voyage" and the "Travels with a Donkey," would have cast irresistible spells on the devotees of sensational fiction as the author of "Treasure Island" or "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Yet there is evidence of the same dramatic power in all these books; although in the former the dramatic element is toned down to the sober key in which the thoughtful travels are narrated. But whether Stevenson indulged in fond and picturesque recollections of the scenes of his childhood and youth; whether he threw off his spirited or pathetic verses or wrote fairy tales to please childish fancies; whether he gave free rein to a wonderfully vivid imagination in his wild romances of the Scottish Highlands and the South Seas or in almost grotesque extravaganzas of superstition and crime, even when he brooded over the physical and metaphysical nightmares which shaped themselves under the master's touch into terribly impressive possibilities, the vagaries of his inspirations were invariably kept in check by exquisite taste and sound literary judgment.

That his genius had a morbid tinge there is no denying, and, indeed, it is that we are indebted for his most marvellous *tour d'esprit*. We fancy we can trace through the varied series of his writings the sad story of falling health, of broken nights and the sowing of the seeds of pulmonary disease. He had his moods of inspired depression and pessimism, even while the vigorous intellectual powers were still unimpaired. "The Suicide Club," with its forbidding title, "The Dynamiter," and the "Dr. Jekyll" may suffice to show that. The stories of his philosophical wanderings and ponderings, his poetry, his essays, and his "familiar studies" might each have entitled him to a high place in literature, but it is as the popular novelist that he will be most widely remembered. Dramatic imagination comes to the aid of a realism which vividly reflects the scenes as his fancy paints them. We are haunted with the Highland outlaws and join in the revels of the pirates. Incident succeeds swiftly to incident, and each striking situation has its direct relation to the steady development of the ingenious plot. The interest never flags, and the curiosity is perpetually being stimulated. In the incidents there is almost invariably characteristic originality, and the situations, although often unexpected, are never unnatural.

Variations from the impression left on us by Mr. Stevenson's poems. It is delightful to see in the "Garden of Verses" how happily the man can identify himself with the child; how he rises in estimation and reputation when he seems to stoop. The secret is that there is nothing of effort in the little book; that the many-sided man of the world could be a child when it pleased him, and that fancy lived freshly again in the past as it followed memory back to the nursery. Take this charmingly optimistic verse, absolutely chosen at random, and say if it is not imitable of the sort down to the propounding of the dilemma -

The child that is not clean and neat,  
With lots of toys and things to eat,  
He is a naughty child, I'm sure,  
Or else his dear papa is poor.

... Yours faithfully, DEREK BOUGHTON, Ann's Cottage, Elham, Canterbury, Kent, December 14.

## Labour's selection

From Mr David Cook

Sir, Only an editorial (December 10) obsessed with arguing that all on the left are "in thrall to the same Marxist doctrine" could so underestimate the significance of the fact that Diane Abbott is a young black woman.

That there are no black MPs and only 23 women in the House of Commons will for many people give her selection as a Labour candidate a rather different and more exciting meaning. Yours sincerely, DAVID COOK, 56 Editha Street, SW9, December 11.

## Second best

From Mr D. M. Eoughton

Sir, That you can publish (December 14) in mid-December a letter from a London address, which begins: "On a recent picnic..." reassures me that the English eccentric is not extinct. Yours faithfully, DEREK BOUGHTON, Ann's Cottage, Elham, Canterbury, Kent, December 14.

## THE STUDENT PAUPER

During the past five years the government has consistently cut the value of student support. Defenders of this segment of the middle class welfare state massed ranks earlier this year to prevent an alteration in the way parents' income is assessed for grants, but maintenance awards will continue falling well below the inflation rate.

Now, as a side-show in his review of social security, Mr Fowler is to cut provision further. In recent times a large number of students have been successfully claiming supplementary benefit, unemployment benefit, and for some dwellers in college halls of residence, even housing benefit. The white paper *Reform of Social Security* declared the Government's aim to be the removal of all students from dependence on such benefits; and that ambition deserves applause, for the hundreds of millions now claimed by students from the social security system have come to represent an unintended and anomalous addition to the cost of higher education.

In international comparison Britain's arrangements for student support have long looked overly generous, a huge "free" gift of tuition costs and living expenses to the few privileged to enter higher education. But, not for the first time, the Government has substituted a crude

exercise in spending cuts for a radical reappraisal of the functions of a policy.

British universities, polytechnics too, have been encouraged by successive governments to provide a high cost collegiate type of education. Their length of degree courses, their patterns of instruction are moulded almost entirely around full-time undergraduates supported by parents and State. A substantial change in the system of student support would, therefore, have major consequences for the type and content of higher education.

It might be that Britain would benefit from higher numbers of part-time students. It would surely benefit (despite Sir Keith Joseph's odd agnosticism about the value of advanced knowledge in a complex, technological society) from more students. Such changes would certainly require radical change in the cost of higher education and the cost of student support.

But universities, parents, employers, the public at large have looked in vain for fresh ideas on these subjects from the Department of Education and Science. The ministry let it be known a month ago that nothing had emerged from the review of student support that had been promised - mark that - by the secretary of state himself when he turned tail before his own backbenchers in the spring. The Government, it seems, intends

to cut public support for students and hope parents will pick up the slack. Loans to students, loans to establish them in their adulthood and teach them the cost of education and educate them in their likely earnings in the real world? The government is unwilling even to ease the passage of loan seeking students into the financial markets.

Mr Fowler is quite right to try to exclude students from a system intended to deal with social casualties; he ought to proceed to exclude students from benefits that, even after Tuesday's announcement, will still be payable during the summer vacation. But the government cannot just leave students there. They become eligible for supplementary benefit because their means are sparse and their parents cannot or will not pay. Unless access to higher education is to become subject to some new test of financial means, student income will have to be increased. That requires the government to create the circumstances in which students can support themselves from earnings or by drawing against their future earnings - by loans. The State could and should have a major role in organizing an effective loans system. It does Sir Keith Joseph and his department to credit that they have abjectly failed to produce even the bare bones of such a scheme for public discussion.

committee say, summarizing perhaps lightly, but in serious discussion, his task; that he tended to view the problems of Oxford from the window of a council flat in Blackbird Leys.

This is very worthy, but his view suggested that the care of Oxford (he was speaking of Oxford, not Cowley) is not a matter that requires separate consideration and is incidental to the commercial and industrial

development of the area, planning here perhaps to ripen in years to come an "inner city" syndrome; his policy opposes the long-established county development plan intended to prevent it.

Yours faithfully, R. T. RIVINGTON, 5 Carlton Road, Oxford, December 14.

## Planning in Oxford

from Mr R. T. Rivington

Sir, At the heart of the controversy over Oxford City Council's planning and development policy are the questions of what it considers its responsibilities and how competent it is to shoulder them.

At a recent public meeting I heard the chairman of its planning







THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Lord King ensures that BA's profits stay high

The delay caused by the Laker Airways litigation has not been entirely kind to British Airways' flotation hopes. Had the airline been sold to the public on the back of a sparkling rise in profits from £185 million to £202 million. But after the post-Laker boom, 1985-86 was always going to be a much tougher year for BA. And to add to competitive difficulties, it has lost its mature, but profitable Saudi routes to British Caledonian (costing £110 million in the latest six months) and lost the use of aircraft as well as favour with passengers after the Manchester Airways disaster as well as temporary loss of a Trident (costing £9 million).

All told, the airline group has done pretty well to increase pretax profits for the most profitable half-year to September from £189 million to £201 million. That figure does not show as good a trend as might appear. The operating surplus is actually down £31 million to £205 million (currency changes being partly to blame). The improvement has come from falling interest costs (£29 million, against £48 million as BA uses its strong cash flow to reduce borrowings rather than buy new aircraft in order to protect government finances).

Not for nothing, however, is the wily Lord King known as an expert in selling companies as well as knocking them into shape. When the prospectus arrives - and this is now likely to be June rather than May - it will show another strong rise in profits in the year to March instead of the expected near standstill. How is this to be done? The £33 million cost of the Laker actions, apart from the class actions, has been written off against operating costs rather than below the line. So carefully delayed full accounts show 1984-85 pretax profits at only £168 million rather than £202 million. BA should have little difficulty improving on that.

There are still problems. BA has managed to raise volume on its scheduled services by 10 per cent, an excellent performance. But airline revenue has only risen by the same percentage, suggesting a net standstill in actual fares. This is not a happy state of affairs as fuel costs have risen sharply.

If a further rise planned for January goes, through it would cost BA a extra £50 million a year. Airport and traffic control charges are also rising, although the chief executive, Colin Marshall, does not expect the new pay deal to raise labour costs significantly net of productivity. The trouble is that BA is finding it hard to raise

its fares in response. Mr Marshall says this is due to the regulators rather than the market.

Longer term, the bigger question mark for investors will be over BA's need to update its fleet, particularly its Boeing 747s, which now have an average age of nearly 10 years. (Singapore Airlines entire fleet will soon have an average age of less than 30 months).

The group's net worth, which grew to £487 million, had already overtaken its debt (down to £464 million) by the end of September and the debt/equity ratio should be even better by June. On the other hand, it will need to spend £500 million a year for 10 years on aircraft just to maintain its present average age. (It is admittedly younger than the average of the biggest international airlines).

Even so, early estimates that BA could be worth £1 billion to £1.2 billion when it is sold look puzzling when compared with Singapore Airlines, which was comfortably worth £1 billion with half the profits and only a fifth the size of BA's (though admittedly dominated by new jumbos). Either BA is a much worse airline than we have been sold by the marketing men or those figures would make it cheap.

Perhaps the method planned for selling British Airways all at once could have something to do with this. That is certainly the implication of the report of the Committee of Public Accounts, which reported yesterday on the lessons of the flotation of British Telecom. The two new and critical recommendations are highly relevant to BA, though aimed perhaps more at British Gas.

The Government could not more money if it phased the sale of companies rather than privatizing in one go. And the expense of selling abroad and special concessions made to attract foreign investors make it a waste of time trying to sell simultaneously in other markets.

The British Airways flotation is presently scheduled to be 100 per cent at one go (perhaps even without part payment on the BT model). It is also aimed to sell 25 per cent on Wall Street because BA earns 30 per cent of its revenue across the Atlantic and thinks American investors are more used to airline stocks. Much effort has been made in marketing the airline to US investors already.

If these methods are pursued, the Public Accounts Committee will no doubt wonder if the best price was obtained on BA, unless the eventual selling price turns out somewhat larger than early estimates suggest.

## When the spirit is willing

It would be churlish to say that the White Paper on banking supervision was, after so many months of debate and heart searching, a damp squib. But it contains a patchy and deeply conservative set of proposals. The legislative framework it lays out betrays a desire to introduce as little change as possible into the present system, which gives the Bank of England wide discretion. The result is that hopes for a more effective supervisory system lie more in the spirit than in the letter of the proposals.

There are legislative changes of real importance, more of which stem from the Johnson Matthey Bankers saga. Auditors will play a larger role in watching over banks, with a "hot line" direct to the Bank, to be used without waiting for their clients' permission. But this is only to be activated in exceptional circumstances - likely to mean only fraud or blatant irresponsibility by bank directors. That is a considerable retreat from the Bank's earlier proposal.

The Bank will now have a statutory right to information from banks at any time and not, as before, only when things seem to be going wrong. It will have the power to carry out regular investigations of banks' business, probably once a year. And it will be a criminal offence for bank directors to withhold information to which the Bank is entitled as supervisor.

This should help to widen the range of information available to the supervisor, as should the power given the Bank to pass on relevant information to government departments other than the Treasury (but not the Inland Revenue) if necessary.

The Bank has, however, retreated a little from its tidying-up of the two-tier supervisory system. It wanted a £1 million net asset threshold for those calling themselves a bank, but after objections from the banking community has moved

to £5 million issued share capital. That is little different from the present £5 million net asset requirement.

But the rules on lending exposure limits are stronger than the banks expected.

Originally, the Bank proposed keeping the old case-by-case approach. But pressure from the Treasury appears to have forced statutory limits into the White Paper. This is slightly surprising since it leaves open the question of how off-balance sheet lending would be treated. Nevertheless, the limits laid down are broad and the change is unlikely to make much practical difference to banks and their supervisors in the large majority of cases.

The big surprise of the White Paper is the creation of a brand new Supervision Board within the Bank. This, however, is also less radical than it looks. It appears to be intended as a way of avoiding the imposition of an outside supervisory agency and it will be useful as a watch-dog on the whole supervisory system. But its decisions can, after all, be over-ruled by the Governor of the Bank.

That summarizes the spirit of the White Paper. The legislative framework will be so loose - except in certain very specific areas - as to leave the Bank of England's position virtually unchanged. Much more important is the Bank's clear recognition within the document that it needs more people with more experience to carry out its supervision function.

Institutions do not simply work by having rules. The new powers for auditors are meant as a kind of nuclear deterrent to erring banks, but the Bank has always had the power to investigate suspect institutions. The problem was that it did not use it. The White Paper shows a new determination to make the same old system work better.

Details, page 17

## Names offered £13.4m to settle Howden scandal claims

By Alison Eadie

A total of 3,500 Lloyd's names on insurance syndicates 126 and 127 previously underwritten by Mr Ian Postgate, now suspended have been offered £13.4 million by Alexander Howden companies to settle claims arising from the 1982 Alexander Howden scandal.

The names include the sports personalities, Miss Virginia Wade and Mr Lester Piggot, as well as the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Soames. Excluded from the settlement, however, are seven names who were involved in the Howden scandal, in which \$55 million (£40 million) went missing. They include Mr Kenneth Grob, former chairman of Howden, the rest of the so-called Gang of Four - Mr Ronald Comery, Mr Jack Carpenter, Mr Allan Page and Mr Postgate.

Mr Postgate, whose share on the syndicates was the largest of any name and would have entitled him to about £16,000 said he would sue. He said he should be included because as underwriter, he made the profit

for the names. He would ask Lloyd's to back him because Lloyd's should ensure equal treatment for all names.

The offer has been recommended to names by Alexander Syndicate Management, which now manages the syndicates independently of Howden. Mr Jeremy Hardie, chairman of ASM said: "This is a fair offer. It concludes three years of detailed examination, by the independent directors, of the wrongdoings associated with these syndicates."

The syndicates' share of the misappropriated \$55 million was \$14 million of quota share premiums, most of which were placed with Southern International Re, a Panamanian company which turned out to be a real estate company and not a licensed insurer. These quota share policies were rewritten by Sphero Drake Insurance in 1982 after the American insurance broker, Alexander & Alexander Services, bought Howden and discovered the misappropriation.



Jeremy Hardie: "This is a fair offer"

The £13.4 million offer, which will settle litigation brought by ASM, is in three parts - £2.4 million for commission on the rewritten quota share policies and £7.8 million and £3.2 million of repaid premiums and/or rolled up interest on different rollover policies.

The offer represents 83 per cent of the £16.1 million ASM was claimed on behalf of

## Petrofina and Charterhouse in £145 million merger

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Petrofina, the Belgian oil company which is the most successful driller in the North Sea, is to take over Charterhouse Petroleum in a deal which puts a £145 million price tag on the British company.

Charterhouse has been the subject of bid speculation since it was beaten in an attempt to merge with Saxon Oil in the summer. It will recommend the bid which values its shares at 107p. Shares in Charterhouse yesterday opened at 66p and moved rapidly upwards to 101p after the announcement of Petrofina's bid.

The takeover brings together two of the most highly regarded companies in the North Sea. Petrofina has achieved 61 per cent success in its drilling companies with the best last at 52 per cent and Charterhouse is regarded as among the best-managed of the small indepen-

dent British oil companies. It had built up holdings in some of the prime offshore oil fields and also has substantial overseas holdings.

However, there is a division of opinion among some stockbrokers over the price Petrofina is offering. Some suggest that this valuation put on Charterhouse is correct, bearing in mind its acreage, which is still to be appraised. This view is said to be supported by the market's latest valuation of the shares. Others, however, suggest that its present oil holdings and its tax position value the company at well under £100 million.

Petrofina already has a 1.25 per cent holding in Charterhouse and acceptance of the bid will involve the issue of up to 1.3 million new Petrofina shares, or 7.3 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

The terms of the bid are three new shares of Petrofina plus £59 in cash for every 295 Charterhouse shares.

Petrofina said yesterday that the activities of Charterhouse will be fully integrated with Petrofina UK's exploration, refining and marketing operations. Petrofina has a refinery on Humberside and has recently modernized and refurbished its chain of filling stations.

Charterhouse has been the centre of bid rumours for several months after its proposed merger with Saxon failed when En-terprise Oil made a successful cash offer for Saxon.

Its name has been linked with companies such as Rio Tinto Zinc, with which it has worked closely after forming a consortium to bid for the British Gas interests in the Wytham Farm onshore field in Dorset.

## Buyout of Molins rejected

By Teresa Poole

The proposed £49.8 million management buyout of Molins, the manufacturer of cigarette-making machines, was yesterday thrown out by the company's ordinary shareholders.

A 75 per cent majority was needed in favour of the buyout. At yesterday's extraordinary general meeting 72 per cent of votes were for the scheme and 27.5 per cent against.

The buyout terms, worth 170p cash a share, had previously been criticized as too low by several of Molins's big institutional shareholders. The M & G unit trust group (with 6.8 per cent) and the Prudential (about 5 per cent) both voted against the proposals.

A spokesman for M & G said: "Our vote, although against the management proposals, is actually a vote of confidence in the management. Shareholders should look very closely at management buyouts for public limited companies. In this sort of issue it is important to raise the question why, rather than why not."

BAT Industries, which holds a 29.9 per cent stake in Molins, supported the scheme. A further 10.6 per cent of the shares are held by IEP Securities, an Australian company controlled by Mr Ron Brierley. About 8 per cent of the IEP votes were registered in time for the meeting and are believed to have been cast against the buyout proposals.

The buyout offer has now failed. "I am obviously disappointed because we considered the wider problems very carefully and came to the conclusion it was in the best interests of the shareholders," said Sir Harry Moore, chairman of Molins.

Molins' shares fell 5p to 165p.

## PSBR falls £500m under forecasts for November

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The public sector borrowing requirement was £702 million last month, about £500 million below average market expectations. The low figure, which came after a £275 million net repayment in October, has improved prospects for hitting the Treasury's £8 billion PSBR target for the present financial year.

The cumulative PSBR in the first eight months of the financial year was £6.1 billion. This month will have been helped by the receipt of £300 million from the sale of Cable and Wireless shares. In January and February, there is usually a net repayment, offset by a large March PSBR.

Weak oil prices will not have a significant effect on this year's PSBR. The next large petroleum

revenue tax payments, in March, will be based on prices and production in the six months to the end of December. For most of this period, prices have held up well.

The PSBR last month resulted from a large central government borrowing requirement, of £1,955 billion, combined with big repayments by the local authorities. Local authority repayments had the effect of cutting the PSBR by £754 million and arose from strong rate receipts.

The PSBR was also helped by the receipt of £200 million from the second payment on the sale of shares in Britoil.

Treasury officials said yesterday that public spending last month was in line with the Autumn Statement projections.

## SE firm fails in Singapore crisis

From Paul Routledge, Singapore

The business crisis in Singapore caused by the Pan-Electric debacle has claimed its first stockbroking casualty, Associated Asian Securities.

Day-to-day running of Associated Asian has passed into the hands of the Singapore Stock Exchange under the tough new regime instituted two weeks ago after an unprecedented three-day closure of the market.

The news was confirmed during a second day of renewed

nervousness that sent the Straits Times industrial index down by nearly six points to 638.45, amid continuing expectations of more bad news.

The big gains of last week have been all wiped out, and the index is falling towards the historic low of 509.54 recorded on December 5 when it experienced an 82-point tumble.

Cash flow problems related to the withdrawal of bank credit are being blamed for the

Associated Asian troubles. The receivers are still looking at ways to rescue Pan-Electric. Meanwhile, Singapore's economic problems continue to mount. The Keppel shipyard has announced a 45 per cent cut in shiprepairing capacity in a concentration of its facilities at the modern yard at Tuas.

Singapore's troubled shipyards have now reduced their capacity by 20 per cent, but the rundown is expected to continue.

## EEC split signals tin free-for-all

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

A tin market free-for-all in which prices could crash looked ominously close last night after West Germany and France blocked agreement by the EEC on a solution to the crisis which has gripped the market for two months.

Mr Michael Brown, chief executive of the London Metal Exchange, said: "It's tremendously bad news." He gave a warning that the pressure on the LME board and committee at their scheduled meeting on Friday to lift the suspension of tin trading will be intense.

January 6 or 13 are the dates being suggested by metal brokers for a resumption of tin trading. The LME suspended tin trading on October 24 after the International Tin Council said that it could no longer afford to finance its price support operation.

But Mr David Williamson, a metals analyst at Shearson Lehman and an authority on tin, said if tin trading was resumed without agreement on how to maintain an orderly market the price could collapse to £3,000 a tonne. It was suspended at £8,140 a tonne.

When it suspended operations the ITC, which consists of 22 tin consumer and producer countries, had gross debts of almost £900 million. Most of the liabilities were to 14 banks and 14 metal brokers.

Hopes rose last week that a solution might be imminent after detailed discussions between the banks, brokers and ITC. Yesterday, however, bank sources said it was difficult to see how they could proceed in the absence of the vital political will for a settlement.

The ITC is due to meet in London today. Without powers to agree to any financial rescue plans it may be forced to adjourn until after Christmas.

## IN BRIEF £180m oil investment

Shell UK is to spend £180 million on installing plant at its refinery at Stanlow, Merseyside. The investment comes after an agreed cut in the workforce from 3,300 to 2,300 and productivity improvements.

A new catalytic cracker will enable the refinery to convert heavy fuel oil, for which there is little demand, into petrol and diesel.

Mr Howie Jones, the craft unions representative at the refinery, said: "We recognise that we can't afford to stand still and that flexibility in work practices is essential if we are to survive. We believe this investment ensures Stanlow's future."

Mr Bob Reid, chairman of Shell UK, said: "We could not support such a large project without the productivity improvements. This shows that by restructuring and accepting change we can justify reinvestment."

Syndicates 126 and 127 are very profitable and earned £5,641 for a name with a £20,000 share over the three underwriting years, 1980 to 1982.

Alexander & Alexander, which paid around £300 million for Howden, has had to pay out over £26 million as a result of the Howden and PCW scandals. Of the missing \$55 million, \$20 million has been recovered.

## Opec forecast

Opec should aim to sell 18 to 20 million barrels per day (BPD) of the 48.5 million BPD of crude oil expected to be supplied by the non-Communist world next year, Mr Tam David-West, the Nigerian oil minister, said in Lagos.

Tempus, page 15

Britain and China have agreed in principle on six projects to be built in China with a £100 million loan on lenient terms, Lord Young of Giffordham, Secretary of State for Employment, said in Hong Kong yesterday, at the end of a week-long trade mission to China. The projects include a coal-fired power station.

January 6 or 13 are the dates being suggested by metal brokers for a resumption of tin trading. The LME suspended tin trading on October 24 after the International Tin Council said that it could no longer afford to finance its price support operation.

## Waterford deal

Waterford Glass has agreed to sell for £5.5 million its 60 per cent interest in Waterford Harolds, holding company of the Swiss Group, to Harolds (Ireland), a subsidiary of House of Fraser and holder of the remaining 40 per cent.

## Triplex issue

Triplex Foundries has launched a rights issue of one share at 70p for every two held to raise £2.7 million. It has announced profits of £440,000 before tax, up from £292,000 for the six months to September 30. Turnover rose from £13.1 million to £13.7 million. A final dividend of 2p is promised.

Tempus, page 15

## Weir Group sent out its formal offer document for Yarrow

After detailed discussions between the banks, brokers and ITC. Yesterday, however, bank sources said it was difficult to see how they could proceed in the absence of the vital political will for a settlement.

## Leasing setback

United Leasing, the computer leasing group, reported half-year profits down from £2.04 million to £1.01 million in the six months to September 30. Turnover fell from £70.38 million to £63.83 million. The interim dividend is increased from 1.4p to 1.5p.

Tempus, page 15

## Coal venture

Consolidated Gold Fields has set up a joint venture with Ryan International the company rescued after the miners' strike, to recover coal from coal tips in Britain.

## Komatsu to build factory in North

Komatsu, the Japanese earth-moving equipment maker, is to receive £2.35 million in British government grants and selective assistance for its new plant at Birtley, Tyne and Wear.

The £10 million development, confirmed yesterday, is subject to an agreement which was signed by Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Industry, and Mr Shoji Nogawa, the Komatsu president.

The company is to buy a 50-acre site formerly occupied by the American Caterpillar company and plans to manufacture 2,400 excavators and loaders a year by 1988, with more than 80 per cent for export. It is expected that 270 jobs will have been created by 1987.

Komatsu is to import from Japan its own diesel engines and hydraulic systems for the vehicles, and has told the Government it plans 60 per cent local content initially.

## MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS		MAIN PRICE CHANGES		CURRENCIES	
FT Ind Ord	1089.9 (-10.4)	W A Holdings	41p +14p	London:	£1.4382 (+0.0005)
FT All Share	662.51 (-5.24)	Charterhouse Pet	101p +35p	2: DM 3.9043 (-0.0246)	
FT Govt Securities	82.91 (+0.06)	Cifer	10p +2p	3: Sfr 3.0218 (-0.0147)	
FT-SE 100	1365.4 (-11.1)	Clyde Petroleum	58p +7p	2: FF 11.0278 (-0.0865)	
Bargains	21.63	Logica	154p +7p	3: Yen 280.13 (-1.23)	
Datstream USM	104.89 (-0.96)	Floyd Oil	48p +7p	5: Index 78.5 (-0.3)	
New York		United Leasing	248p +12p		
Dow Jones	1553.20 (+0.11)	Polly Pack	175p +10p	New York (latest):	
Tokyo		Spencer Clark	130p +7p	£: DM 2.5115	
Nikkei Dow	13128.94 (+11.00)	Cap Group	193p +10p	5: Index 128.8 (-0.6)	
Hong Kong		Microlease	200p +10p	ECU 0.807303	
Hang Seng	1720.45 (-7.79)	Pineapple Dance	42p +2p	SDR 0.787284	
Sydney AO	980.5 (+5.7)				
Amsterdam Gen	241.2 (+0.4)				
Frankfurt					
Commerzbank	1836.5 (-11.4)				
Brussels					
General	887.81 (-9.06)				
Paris CAG	263.4 (+0.5)				
Zurich					
SKA General	612.00 (+3.1)				
GOLD		INTEREST RATES			
London fixing:		London:			
am \$321.50cm - \$321.15		11½%			
close \$321.50-322.00 - \$223.50		3-month interbank 11½%-11½%			
224.00		3-month eligible bills:			
New York:		buying rate 11½%-11½%			
Comex (latest) \$321.55					

## Gulliver condemns Distillers defence

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Mr James Gulliver, chairman of Argyll Group, yesterday accused the Distillers management of attempting to use the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as the main plank of its defence against his £1.9 billion takeover bid.

"I get a strong impression that they are trying to hide behind the commission rather than putting their arguments on the virtues of their efforts," he said.

"On normal tests of competition there are no grounds for a referral and there are no grounds either on the argument of borrowing or size of borrowings."

Mr Gulliver made his comments in Edinburgh, Distillers' home ground, when he presented Argyll's formal offer document to shareholders.

Argyll's case for a merger of the two companies came in four smartly produced documents, one describing the bid in 60 pages of detail, another the technical detail of the acquisition to its own shareholders, a third giving 20 "good reasons" why the offer should be accepted, and the fourth explaining how to accept the offer.

Mr Gulliver said he had no plans to sell any of Distillers' valuable businesses or brands, nor would he disrupt the market by disposing Distillers' excess stocks of Scotch whisky.

On the other hand, Distillers' shareholdings in British Petroleum and the Bank of Scotland would be sold.

Distillers accused Argyll of timing its document "so as to ensure that the Christmas post will hinder our ability to respond."

Mr John Connell, the chairman, said that a defence document would be posted to shareholders before the end of the month.

Mr Connell said: "Nothing in Argyll's document alters our view that this highly geared offer is utterly inadequate."

"Argyll's experience as a high street supermarket operator in the UK is wholly irrelevant to Distillers' worldwide drinks business."

The Takeover Panel has asked Distillers to explain certain statistics it used in press advertisements after a complaint from Argyll. Argyll claims that Distillers used misleading figures on Argyll's sales in the United States.

## DAKS Simpson

GROUP PLC



"I am confident that our forward momentum will continue."

Johnny Mengers, Chairman.

## Principal Group Activities

- Manufacturing - DAKS menswear, womenswear rainwear and leisurewear for UK and export
- Licensing - DAKS clothing and accessories produced locally in major world markets
- Distribution - The 'DAKS Companions' range of accessories
- Contract - Activon, suppliers of tailored clothing to Marks & Spencer
- Retailing - Simpson Piccadilly, London's leading speciality store

## Results in brief



re dominated by co

[illegible]

98	Lon Merchant 800	78		
99	Lon Travel	88	-2	
100	Merchants	100		

[illegible]

	Bid	Offer	Chg	Ytd		Bid	Offer	Chg	Ytd
<b>SAVE &amp; PROSPER</b>					<b>TARGET TRUST MANAGERS</b>				
SAV. & PROSP. FUND	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND II	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond II	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND III	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond III	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND IV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond IV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND V	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond V	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND VI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond VI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND VII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond VII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND VIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond VIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND IX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond IX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND X	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond X	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XXXIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XXXIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SAV. & PROSP. FUND XL	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Target Bond XL	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
<b>SCHWAB INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>					<b>TOUCHY INVESTMENT</b>				
SW. INVEST. TRUST	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST II	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond II	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST III	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond III	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST IV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond IV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST V	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond V	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST VI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond VI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST VII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond VII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST VIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond VIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST IX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond IX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST X	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond X	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XXXIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XXXIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
SW. INVEST. TRUST XL	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Touchy Bond XL	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
<b>STANDARD INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>					<b>WATKINS TRUST MANAGERS</b>				
ST. INVEST. TRUST	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST II	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond II	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST III	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond III	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST IV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond IV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST V	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond V	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST VI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond VI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST VII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond VII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST VIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond VIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST IX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond IX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST X	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond X	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXIV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXIV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXVI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXVI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXVII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXVII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXVIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXVIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XXXIX	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XXXIX	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
ST. INVEST. TRUST XL	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond XL	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
<b>THE INVEST TRUSTS</b>					<b>WATKINS TRUST MANAGERS</b>				
THE INVEST. TRUST	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
THE INVEST. TRUST II	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond II	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
THE INVEST. TRUST III	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond III	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
THE INVEST. TRUST IV	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond IV	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
THE INVEST. TRUST V	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond V	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
THE INVEST. TRUST VI	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond VI	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
THE INVEST. TRUST VII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond VII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0
THE INVEST. TRUST VIII	97.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	Watkins Bond VIII	98.0	98.0	0.0	0.0

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## TEMPUS

## Greater consistency promised in face of a bear market

Hubris, the continuing saga of world bond markets, hardly contained cheering overtones for London yesterday. Even continuing evidence of the tightness of the current fiscal stance, witnessed a cumulative PSBR so far this year of just £6.1 billion, failed to shake the traders' conviction that high rates are here to stay. But in New York, the long bond hit a high for the decade, as the Japanese poured into the market. Slumping housing starts means weak GNP, mean lower rates, mean booming bonds. Well, that's the theory of it all.

## J. Rothschild Holdings

J Rothschild Holdings has produced a marginal decline in pretax profits at £27.6 million (£30 million), after the usual bewildering mix of contributions from various divisions, a tentative forecast of maintained profits, at least, in the second half, and a generalized strategic manifesto which, broadly, adds up to a promise to behave less like a chameleon in future.

It is now fashionable to foresee a fairly vicious bear market on the way during 1986. To investors, who fear whether a specialist investment concept like J Rothschild can survive, the group now retorts that it has the individual talent to succeed, a cash cushion in the shape of £43 million, of unrealized profits, and accounting policies of such strictness that dealing profits are struck net of unrealized investment losses.

The share price is supported, to the tune of £47 million worth of purchases since last March. Gearing is higher with debt now totalling about £260 million, but near-cash in the shape of gilts and loan notes is worth the same amount. Investors have a fair degree of protection.

A question mark inevitably must hang over the quality of the asset base, according to the analysts, because of the slow growth between September and November. Adjusting for currency factors, the average gain of New York and London in two months was about 14 per cent.

Assets per share at J Rothschild improved by just 5 per cent. But, at 109p, the shares warrant an 18 per cent discount on assets, which probably provides some compensation for these fears.

The 5 per cent outperformance by the shares in the last month, must in the meantime, look like a generous reward for promises of consistency.

## United Leasing

At first sight the half-year results of United Leasing, the computer leasing to credit broking group, look like the harbinger of some bad full-year news. Halved profits of £1.01 million for the six months to end September hardly inspire investor confidence.

However, it seems that the chairman's bold statement that the full-year results will better last year's £5.29 million, continuing United's impressive growth record, is not so much bravado.

For a start United's March 31 year-end means that these

half-year figures miss out the mad corporate scramble to reap the benefits of the decreasing first-year allowance. United is likely to cash in on next March's 50 per cent allowance.

In the US, the largest market for the IBM computer business which is the core of United's activities, the company had a flat half-New product, specifically the IBM 3090 Sierra - did not come through in time for the first-half figures.

However, United expects that by the end of this month it will have installed on lease 18 Siemens worldwide, each costing about £4 million, and each representing a fertile opportunity for profitable upgrades.

That said, United lost £940,000 on the microcomputer dealership side, having acquired Sunlock Bondain (now United Business Systems), with consummate bad timing in September 1984. The bloodbath in the industry that followed almost immediately was compounded by internal problems at UBS, such as high stock ratios, inadequate stock control and too broad a product range.

The products have been rationalized, and United's chairman, Parry Mitchell, has taken over the helm as managing director of UBS. The company is now making profits and in sales terms has kept to fifth in the IBM Microcomputer dealership league.

The market was expecting these figures and the shares rose from 236p to 248p on the results. But there is still a question mark about United's treatment of an element of the estimated residual sales value of the computers it leases, as profit each year.

Nevertheless some analysts are sticking to their original full-year forecasts which, as the top end, are around £7.5 million.

## Triplex Foundries

Triplex Foundries' ambition to become one of the rising stars of the engineering sector has suffered from a credibility gap. Its attempts to buy companies that need turning round have failed, largely because its own balance sheet has looked almost as stretched as those of its targets. The rights issue launched yesterday is designed to change all that.

The company is raising only £2.7 million, but the principle of coming to shareholders at this point is probably more important than the sums of money involved.

Triplex is able to take advantage of a strong share price, as its shares have more than doubled in the past six months.

After last year's hiccup on the building components side, the company has renewed its progress this year. Yesterday, it announced interim profits of £440,000 before tax, up from £292,000, and is forecasting not less than £1 million for the full year.

While there seems plenty of momentum for further profits growth, progress on reducing borrowings has slowed. By the end of last year borrowings had fallen from a peak of £7 million to £4.2 million. But, if the £350,000 Triplex has agreed to pay for its latest acquisition had already gone out, they would be higher now.

COMPANY NEWS  
IN BRIEF

● **TI GROUP:** Scaled Power Corporation of Michigan, US, is to acquire from TI V L Churchill, Daventry, England, Optom SR, Madrid, Spain, and the Niday Co, Michigan. The deal also includes TI's 60 per cent holding in Centre Churchill, Daventry, a joint venture with Celeste of France. The price is about £3.50 million.

● **FOREX INTERNATIONAL:** For the half-year to June 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 4,546 (3,693), while the loss, after minorities and tax, was 680 (profit, 79). Loss per share, 3.9p (earnings, 0.45p). An interim dividend of 0.2p (0.2p) is being paid on Feb 1.

● **BRITISH LAND:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in millions of pounds, net rental income was 10.7 (7.2), while the pretax profit was 8.1 (4p). Earnings per share were 4.9p (2.4p). An interim dividend of 1p (0.75p) is being paid.

● **BRITISH STEAM SPECIALTIES:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 37,909 (31,685), while the pretax profit was 2,557 (1,606). Earnings per share were 10.4p (6p). An interim dividend of 2.75p (2.25p) is being paid on Jan 24.

● **WATSON & PHILLIP:** For the year to Oct 25, with figures in £000, turnover was 114,825 (93,390), while the pretax profit was 1,121 (1,510). Earnings per share were 3.5p (7.3p). A final dividend of 4.1p (3.5p) is being paid on Feb 21, making a total of 5.8p (5p).

● **STONE INTERNATIONAL:** For the half-year to Nov 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 43,998 (39,040), while the pretax profit was 3,018 (3,159). Earnings per share were 6.3p (6.5p). An interim dividend of 1.61p (1.46p) is being paid on April 1.

● **RAMPTON GOLD MINING:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 7,799 (4,722), while the pretax profit was 491 (1,155). Earnings divided of 1.17p (2.79p). An interim dividend of 1p (1p) is being paid on April 7.

## More company news page 17

## Index slumps below 1100 level

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

The FT 30-share index yesterday closed below 1,100 points for the first time in a month.

Although prices finished above their worst levels, the market looked very ragged with some investors tempted to cash in at least some of their recent gains.

Another firm performance by Wall Street had little impact. New York is being driven higher by lower oil prices and the prospect of an interest rate cut.

But in London hopes of lower interest rates in the near future have evaporated and lower oil prices are undermining sentiment.

Technical factors are also cutting into equity levels. Today

Further action is expected at Southend Stadium now that the privately owned Shop Construction Holdings has almost 29 per cent of the capital. The stadium is also expected to use its shares, down 3p at 93p yesterday, for acquisitions.

is expiry time for most December traded options and American December options finish on Friday. And because the next three week trading account, which starts on Monday, will run past December 31 (the year end of many City firms) arranging cash and new bargains (beloved by speculators) will be even more difficult and expensive this week.

With many of the old takeover favourites sharply

lower traders have, therefore, been forced to sell.

At the close the FT 30 share index was 9.8 points down at 1,090.5 points. At its worst it was suffering a 14.2 points fall. The FT-SE share index trimmed a 15.4 points decline to 11.1 points at 1,365.4 points.

Government stocks were helped by the firmness of the credit markets but only managed gains of up to an 1/2p.

Logica, where General Motors had put out takeover feelers, advanced to 164p but finished little changed at 157p.

Newcomer Chancery Securities, a banking group, made a sound debut, trading up to 70p against a 63p placing price.

Stores had a see-saw session. British Home Stores mirrored the trend. At one time it was down 14p but closed with a 2p gain at 346p. However since the start of the account it has fallen 68p.

Insurances shrugged off the social security proposals. Oils stirred occasionally although Charterhouse Petroleum gained 35p to 101p on the bid from Petrofina.

Drayton Premier Investment Trust jumped 9p to 519p. The National Coal Board pension funds announced a 500p bid worth £158 million in October.

But the response from DPIT shareholders is thought to have been sluggish. The NCB, through de Zoete & Bevan, the broker, is thought to have picked up stock yesterday at about 520p a share and its offer is expected to be lifted to that level today.

British Telecom shares dipped just 2p to 189p, despite

market talk of a large line of stock in BT coming on offer early in the day. Dealers heard sales of several million shares up for sale, but a cold response saw them quickly withdrawn. Again, the thought was mentioned that the Kuwait Government, one of the City's biggest

Ladbroke Group, the betting to hotels business, was caught in the downward drift yesterday and the shares eased 2p to 320p.

But de Zoete & Bevan, the broker, rate them a buy. The analysts, Mr Nick Gregory and Mr Mark Godridge, have lifted their present year profit forecast to £75 million and look for £90 million next year.

investors, is turning stocks and shares into cash.

Cable & Wireless shares fell in sympathy with the rest of the market, the old issue down 5p at 580p and the partly-paid down 3p to 298p.

Distillers Company had a weak response to the issue of the offer document from Argyl Group. The DCL share price fell 5p to 483p.

United Biscuits, another leading company in the midst of a takeover proposal from Imperial Group, also lost ground, down 6p at 246p.

Market dealers blamed the loss on an unexciting report and accounts which emerged at the end of last week.

Hanson Trust fell 5p to 191p, following the market trend. The City is also wary of the shares since it suspects the Kuwait Investment Office is eager to offload more of its stake in Hanson. A large line of stock in Hanson was spotted last week, rejected and quickly withdrawn, apparently.

T. I. Group, the engineer which still awaits bid terms from Evered Holdings, dropped 11p to 359p. Again, the poor influence of the market atmos-

phere was partly to blame, but T. I. is also looking sad because of the slowness of Evered to make its move. City speculators are beginning to give up hope.

Stone International, the engineer which provides air conditioning and power systems and which was once part of the Stone-Platt organization, say its share price knocked 12p lower to 158p. Half-year results fell slightly - down from £3.16 million to £3.02 million - and the market took a bearish view. Nevertheless, the company, which came to market a year ago, expects second half figures to improve as order payments come through.

Traded options business advanced again, the daily total

Watch out for further rises in the share price of Microlease, the electronic test equipment supplier. Though disappointing profits news at the half-year stage sent the shares tumbling, analysts are now putting a "buy" tag on them. For the year to February, the City is looking for profits of £900,000, against £705,000 last time. At 200p yesterday, up 10p on the day, the shares still have some way to go to achieve the near 500p price seen this year.

of contracts traded reaching 15,400. A handful of options scored totals of more than 1,000 with the stock exchange index option leading the way. The SEI saw 3,529 contracts traded while Hanson notched up 1,813. Bechtam 1,485 and Jaguar 1,002. There were no significant price changes.

British Airways  
announces pre-tax profits of  
£201m for the half year

## BRITISH AIRWAYS HALF YEAR RESULTS

The Board of British Airways Plc announces the results for the six months ended 30th September 1985.

Group Results	6 months ended 30 September unaudited	Year ended 31 March audited
1985	1984	1985
£m	£m	£m
<b>TURNOVER:</b> Airline.....	1640	1491
Other.....	103	82
	<b>1743</b>	<b>1573</b>
<b>AIRLINE OPERATING SURPLUS (Note 1).....</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>236</b>
Operating profit/(loss) on other activities.....	1	(2)
Other income, including related companies.....	16	26
Exceptional item.....	-	-
<b>PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST AND TAXATION.....</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>260</b>
Interest payable.....	(29)	(48)
Currency profits (losses) (Note 1).....	8	(23)
<b>PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION.....</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>189</b>
Taxation (Note 2).....	(1)	(2)
<b>Profit for the period after taxation.....</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>187</b>
Extraordinary items.....	-	-
<b>Profit for the period transferred to reserves.....</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>187</b>

## Note 1

During the 6 months the sterling US Dollar exchange rate moved from US\$1.237 to US\$1.4083. Despite this strengthening of sterling against the US\$ and many other currencies the effect on the overall financial position and in particular the revenue reserves is small. There are three constituent elements as follows:

- The Airline Operating Surplus has been reduced by £24m due to normal credit periods allowed to agents resident outside the UK in settling accounts partly offset by similar payments to foreign suppliers. Both forms of settlement have been affected by the erratic movements within the currency exchange markets.
- The liability on US dollar general purpose loans has decreased by £8m which is credited to the Profit and Loss Account.
- The US dollar loans raised specifically for the purpose of financing aircraft and the corresponding dollar cost of these fixed assets has decreased by £40m as a result of the appreciation in the value of sterling during the period. Conversely, the reserves have been credited by an adjustment to past depreciation on those fixed assets of £12m. The effect on the depreciation charge in the period is not material.

The net effect of these is a £4m debit to reserves.

## Note 2

No provision is required for UK Corporation Tax, because of the availability of losses brought forward. On present estimates provision for Deferred Taxation may be required during the financial year ending 31 March 1987. The Taxation charge of £1m is in respect of overseas taxes and tax attributable to related companies.

## Commentary

The volume of scheduled airline traffic in this half year increased over the same period a year ago by 9.5% in terms of passengers and 10.4% in revenue passenger kilometres.

This volume growth has arisen across all geographical markets with particular strength shown in the USA.

Airline turnover has increased from £1491m to £1640m. While the Airline Operating Surplus has fallen from £236m to £201m - for which there are a number of quantified reasons set out in this statement - the pre-tax profits have increased from £189m to £201m.

The Airline Operating Surplus has, in addition to the £24m loss on currency, been affected by the following:

- The loss of the profitable Saudi Arabian routes which in the same period last year contributed some £10m to half year profits. The new routes to South America are performing well and prospects are encouraging, but they have yet to contribute profits. Due to conflicts in the Mid-

dle East services to Iran have remained discontinued throughout the period.

- With a much smaller number of Trident aircraft in service in this half year operating lease charges in respect of Boeing 757 and 737 aircraft have amounted to some £27m, compared with a virtually nil cost a year ago. Depreciation charged is little changed at £45m.

- The accident at Leeds in which a TriStar operated by British Airways overran the runway, and the loss of the Boeing 737 at Manchester (which led to temporary grounding of aircraft for inspection), have adversely affected the result for the period by an identified £9m. It is believed that this amount may be increased by revenue reflecting some temporary loss of market share to points in Europe but this cannot yet be evaluated.

The cost of aviation fuel although fairly static in the first half of the year has subsequently increased. With lower oil prices on the world markets the outlook for fuel prices should improve.

We are experiencing rejections and delays by the regulatory authorities in seeking approval of new fare proposals.

During the half year net loan repayments amounted to £135m. With the strengthening of sterling the value of borrowings have fallen by £48m over the period, and these now stand at £464m against £512m at 31 March 1985. Net worth (share capital and reserves) is now £499m compared with £297m a year ago, and a similar amount at 31 March 1985.

\*Comparative figures for the year to 31 March 1984 have been extracted from the audited accounts of British Airways Plc and its subsidiaries upon which the auditors have based on responsibility and report. Copies of these accounts have been lodged with the Secretary of State for Transport and filed with the Registrar of Companies.

If you want to know more about the Company send this coupon to Public Affairs, British Airways Plc, (S53), P.O. Box 10, Heathrow Airport Hounslow, TW6 2JA, for a copy of the Interim Results for the first six months to 30th September 1985 and 1984/85 Report and Accounts.

Name.....

Address.....

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## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank.....	11 1/2%
Adam & Company.....	11 1/2%
BCCI.....	11 1/2%
Citibank Savings.....	12 1/2%
Consolidated Crds.....	11 1/2%
Confidential Trust.....	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank.....	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.....	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank.....	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster.....	11 1/2%
Royal Bank Scotland.....	11 1/2%
TSB.....	11 1/2%
Citibank NA.....	11 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

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# Government to set watch-dog on erring banks

The main proposals for change: A Board of Banking Supervision. The Government proposes to provide in statute for a new Bank of England Board of Banking Supervision to assist the Governor in his banking supervisory responsibilities. This will bring independent commercial banking experience to bear on banking supervision at the highest level. The Banking Supervision Division of the Bank of England, an important improvement in the organization of supervision, for which legislation is not required, are being introduced. In particular, steps are being taken to improve the commercial banking and accountancy expertise of the supervisors, training and by a programme of inward and outward secondments.

The two-tier system. Under the 1979 Act, authorization and supervisory powers are based on a distinction between recognized banks and licensed deposit-taking institutions. The Government proposes that all authorized institutions should be subject to the same criteria for authorization, and to the same supervisory regime.

Banking names. In the light of representations it has received, the Government proposes that the use of names including the word "bank" be confined to institutions with not less than £5 million paid-up equity capital.

Inspection. The Government has considered establishing a banking inspection on the lines followed in other countries, but has concluded that it would be more effective to strengthen the Bank's existing statutory powers and resources. The Bank intends to increase the frequency of supervisory visits to banks, both where the Bank has prudential concerns and on a routine basis.

The role of bank auditors. The absence of a full-scale banking inspection adds importance to the relationship between supervisors and auditors. Statutory provision will be made for increased co-operation and discussion between supervisors and auditors of authorized institutions.

Supervisory information and statistics. Routine statistical returns and other supervisory information are at present provided to the supervisors on a voluntary basis. The Government intends to make it a criminal offence knowingly or recklessly to provide false or misleading information to the supervisor which is false or misleading in a material particular. This would apply equally to information provided under a statutory requirement and to information provided voluntarily for the purposes of banking supervision. Whether or not any criminal proceedings are envisaged, any breach of information requirements will immediately be seen as a warning sign, requiring close investigation by the supervisors. It is also proposed to extend to all authorized institutions the Bank's present power to require information; and to cover routine submission of supervisory information. Failure to comply exposes banks to criminal sanctions.

Individual large exposures. Such exposures have proved to be of particular importance in recent bank failures, both in the United Kingdom and overseas. The Government therefore proposes to provide in statute for the notification of such exposures to the supervisor.

The definition of deposit. The basis of the 1979 Act is the protection of the interests of depositors, and the supervision of deposit-taking businesses. This will also be the basis of the new banking supervision legislation. But in order to cope with changes in banks and banking techniques, the Government proposes that the new Act should permit amendment by secondary legislation of the definitions of "deposit" and "deposit-taking business".

The role and aims of the banking supervisor. The primary role of the banking supervisor is to reduce the risk of capital loss to depositors as a result of the banks with which they place their funds being run imprudently. In this way, supervision also fulfils a wider role in safeguarding the stability of individual banks and a whole banking system as a whole. Management decisions in banks must be taken by the directors and managers. When those decisions prove to be wrong, it is always they and the shareholders who should suffer the consequences. Managers' jobs are at risk, and shareholders lose their money. In a free enterprise system, this is as it should be. The shareholders must trust the directors and managers, and the bank's external auditors, whose specific duty under the Companies Act is to assist them

# Gavaskar is a man in 9,000



Sunny side up: Gavaskar has Boon as a companion while he drives through the covers

Adelaide (Reuters) - Sunil Gavaskar became the first player to complete 9,000 Test runs as India sampled their highest ever score against Australia here yesterday. The former captain, 94 not out overnight, batted for a large slice of the final day of the drawn first Test, finishing unbeaten on 166 as India ground their way to 520 all out in their first innings, a lead of 139.

Australia had time for only eight overs when they batted a second time, scoring 17 for no wicket.

Gavaskar's last-wicket stand of 94 with Yadav carried the Indian score past the previous best against Australia of 510 for seven declared at New Delhi in the 1979-80 series.

## Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA First Innings 351 (3 M Pichie 70, G Breen 124, D Gifford 81)	
1st Innings	351
2nd Innings	17
3rd Innings	17
4th Innings	17
5th Innings	17
6th Innings	17
7th Innings	17
8th Innings	17
9th Innings	17
10th Innings	17

After an hour's play had been lost to rain in the morning, Gavaskar wasted no time in completing his hundred. It came up in 368 minutes from 286 balls and included 10 fours.

Bimby, unbeaten on 34 out of the overnight score of 391 for seven, added only four more before being caught behind off McDermott. Kirmani became India's fourth victim after a deep backward square leg Kapil, the Indian captain, who won the man of the match award for his eight-wicket first

innings haul, said of Gavaskar: "Sunny had determination and a coolness of mind which he gives to others who are batting with him," he said.

Border, the Australian captain, blamed the tame draw on a wicket which "stayed a batting one until the last day."

## LEADING CRICKET FIXTURES FOR 1986

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	1st Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)
2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	2nd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)
3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	3rd Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)
4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	4th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)
5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	5th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)
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9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	9th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)
10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)	10th Test: Australia v India (Adelaide)

# A bat whose target is 10,000 runs in Tests

By Marcus Williams

Sunil Gavaskar has been making his mark on the international game ever since his first appearance against West Indies at Port of Spain in 1970-71. On that occasion he scored 65 and 67 not out, hitting the boundary which gave India a seven-wicket victory and ultimately the series.

He scored four centuries in the remaining Test matches, including 220 in the final match, towards an aggregate of 774, which remains the highest achieved by an Indian in a Test series.

Gavaskar went on to prove himself the best and most consistent opening batsman in the world, although he was hitting at No 4 when he scored 236 not out against West Indies two years ago to overthrow the Test record of 29 centuries established by Sir Donald Bradman.

It is a sign of Gavaskar's ability against fast bowling that 12 of his 31 Test centuries have been made against West Indies, prompting their recently retired captain, Clive Lloyd, to say him this tribute: "Gavaskar has no apparent weaknesses."

Although Gavaskar is aged 36, his innings in the match just finished in Adelaide suggests little flagging in the powers of concentration which have characterized his batting. Once or twice in his career critics - and selectors - have been prepared to write him off but now, relieved of the burden of captaincy and with India's new batting programme of Test matches in the coming months, he could well go on to reach 10,000 runs.

## LEADING TEST RECORDS

Player	Runs	Centuries	Half-centuries
S M Gavaskar	774	12	17
G Boycott	108	18	48
G S Sobers	30	10	27
Test centuries	31	2	5
Test half-centuries	17	2	5

# Vote is against Warwickshire

Warwickshire officials will meet in the near future to discuss a vote of no-confidence in the county's committee. Disappointing results on the field in 1985, attracted nearly 700 members to Edgbaston to hear a revolt led by Kidderminster doctor, Arthur Walker.

Although his motion was carried by 232 to 23, it is unlikely to herald the sort of committee reform upheaval that has hampered Yorkshire in recent years.

More cricket, page 18

# Victory for Nilsson as rivals falter

Madonna Di Campello (Reuters) - Jonas Nilsson, of Sweden, confirmed his status as world slalom champion yesterday by winning his first alpine ski World Cup race. Nilsson clocked a total time of 1min 37.04sec in the second slalom of the season to finish 0.65sec ahead of the Yugoslav Bojan Križaj, who won here last year.

Nilsson, who won the slalom world championship in Bormio, Italy, in February, skied the fastest first run down the 1.2km course and was third quickest on the second run. He had recovered from a leg injury, sustained after he finished fourth in the opening slalom of the season at Sestriere, Italy, two weeks ago. "I have been resting since then and I felt fine today," he said.

The Yugoslav Bojan Križaj, who was second in the slalom, was Paul Frommelt, of Liechtenstein, the runner-up to Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli in the World Cup slalom discipline last season, third in 1:38.48.

RESULTS: 1. Nilsson (Swe), 1 min 37.04 sec; 2. Križaj (Yug), 1:37.69; 3. P. Frommelt (Liech), 1:38.04; 4. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.48; 5. B. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.55; 6. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.56; 7. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.57; 8. K. Högberg (Swe), 1:38.58; 9. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.59; 10. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.60; 11. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.61; 12. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.62; 13. L. O. Hovind (Nor), 1:38.63; 14. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.64; 15. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.65; 16. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.66; 17. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.67; 18. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.68; 19. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.69; 20. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.70; 21. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.71; 22. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.72; 23. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.73; 24. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.74; 25. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.75; 26. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.76; 27. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.77; 28. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.78; 29. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.79; 30. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.80; 31. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.81; 32. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.82; 33. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.83; 34. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.84; 35. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.85; 36. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.86; 37. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.87; 38. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.88; 39. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.89; 40. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.90; 41. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.91; 42. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.92; 43. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.93; 44. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.94; 45. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.95; 46. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.96; 47. R. Esterl (F), 1:38.97; 48. M. Girardelli (Lux), 1:38.98; 49. J. Križaj (Yug), 1:38.99; 50. R. Esterl (F), 1:39.00.

## More skiing, page 19

# RUGBY LEAGUE

## St Helens to make up for lost signings

By Keith Macklin

St Helens, who had Mordt and Louw standing out, made room for Mordt and Louw by placing their New Zealand front row forward, Danny Campbell on the transfer list at £15,000. Several clubs have already made inquiries about the experienced centre, Danny Carter, who has been attracting the attention of Saints' representatives in South Africa for two seasons.

St Helens are also anxious to offer terms to Steve Halliwell, the Australian scrum-half who is currently playing with Leigh, but who has yet to sign a settled contract with the Leigh club.

Wigan yesterday began their clearing out process to make room for Mordt and Louw by placing their New Zealand front row forward, Danny Campbell on the transfer list at £15,000. Several clubs have already made inquiries about the experienced centre, Danny Carter, who has been attracting the attention of Saints' representatives in South Africa for two seasons.

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# GOLF

## Allen to appeal against his five-year ban

By a Correspondent

Tony Allen, whom Warwickshire banned for five years, is threatening legal action against the county union. A club-maker and repairer, he claims the ban has imperilled his livelihood because he has lost a lot of work through playing golf. "That is the basis on which I have instructed my solicitor," he said.

Allen has lodged an appeal against the sentence which will be heard in mid-January. Warwickshire have recommended that a similar ban be imposed on an English and Midlands Golf Union and all clubs in the county.

Allen walked out of the Warwickshire team's hotel on the eve of the English county finals at Burgham and Berron in September, saying that the ban was "unjust and standard that he could not subject his wife and four-month-old baby to three more days there."

# Mrs Robertson plans to play her last round

Belle Robertson was named women's golfer of the year in London yesterday and she announced that she would be retiring from top-class competition in 1986.

The Scot, who will then be 50, said she intends to contest the full programme of events next season, culminating in the defence of the British women's strokeplay championship at Blairgowrie in August. "After that I shall retire gracefully from the international scene," she said, after being presented with the Arva Watches Trophy by the comedian, Jimmy Tarbuck.

Mrs Robertson retired on at least one previous occasion 11 years ago. "I was non-playing category of the Curtis Cup team in America in 1974 and was invited back there, presumably as a spectator, four years later," she recalled. "I thought it would be nice to play in the American Amateur Championship and decided to compete in the competitive golf by playing in the Scottish amateur event. I went on to win it and the merry-go-round started again."

This is the third time that Mrs Robertson, who comes from the Dumfriesshire town of Moffat, has been named woman golfer of the year. She was voted for the title by a panel of golf writers ahead of Lillian Beahan of Ireland and Patricia Johnson of England.

## COMPANY NEWS

GOAL PETROLEUM: The board is to raise about £10.3 million (net) by an unwritten rights issue on a one-for-one basis at 33p a share.

JAMES NEILL: The company owns, or has acceptances for, 75.12 per cent of the ordinary and 17.78 per cent of the preference shares of Spear & Jackson International. The increased cash alternative has been closed, but the increased offers will remain open.

JOHN BOOTE & SONS (BOJTON): For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 6,503 (421), while the pre-tax loss was 374 (profit, 62). Losses per share were 43.14p (profit, 5.41p).



## FOOTBALL

## Scotland already finding it hard as they look for a suitable base

Scotland are having difficulty finding suitable World Cup headquarters in Mexico. They need a base convenient for their match venues at Neza and Queretaro and that is proving harder than the Scottish Football Association delegation had expected.

The SFA secretary, Ernie Walker, the president, David Will, and the coaching director, Andy Roxburgh, have been scouring the area since the World Cup draw was made on Sunday night.

Scotland face Denmark and Uruguay in the slum area of Neza in Mexico City, where acceptable accommodation and training facilities are not readily available. Queretaro, where the Scots meet West Germany, is around 130 miles from Neza. If Scotland base themselves there it would involve an unhealthy amount of travelling to and from matches.

The SFA assistant secretary, Bill Richardson, who had been in contact with Walker in Mexico, said: "The reports about Neza have not been promising. It appears that the area does not measure up to our requirements. It is important that we get top-class facilities. To base ourselves at Queretaro would entail problems in getting to the stadium, which is on the wrong side of the city."

"That would involve a journey through the streets of Mexico City, which are nearly always congested. It would be a bad and not what we want at all. A halfway house between

## Yugoslavia will test England

Yugoslavia, one of the strongest teams to miss the World Cup finals, have been provisionally fixed up to play England in Split on January 29. English plans to play in North Africa have been shelved. Bobby Robson, the England manager, will instead make a spying mission on their Group F opponents, Morocco, later in 1986. The World Cup finalists, Algeria, had been seen as possible opponents for England because of the need to play in a warm climate.

Yugoslavia will provide more testing opposition than Algeria. Robson will probably settle for a hard acclimatization in the United States two weeks before the finals.

Northern Ireland have completed their immediate pre-finals arrangements. They will spend three weeks on the University of New Mexico campus at Albuquerque before moving to Guadalajara.

The two centres would seem to be ideal.

Walker, Will and Roxburgh hope to finalize their arrangements before flying home to Scotland today. The SFA officials have studied several high altitude centres for acclimatization purposes and Albuquerque in New Mexico is likely to get their vote.

## Swansea are given another reprieve

Swansea City FC were given another reprieve in the High Court in London yesterday when a winding-up petition brought by the Inland Revenue was adjourned until Friday. Mr Justice Harman was told that there was a prospect of funds being raised from a new source to pay the third division club's debts.

Outside court the source was revealed as the ex-chairman, Tom Phillips - said to be willing to put about £500,000 into the club. The executive director, Doug Sharpe, who has been trying to put together a rescue package, said he would step aside if Mr Phillips raised the money.

Mr Sharpe said he was hopeful the club would survive. Swansea's counsel, Mr Martin Moore, told the judge it was accepted that, if the money was not forthcoming by Friday, the court was most unlikely to grant a further adjournment of the winding-up petition.

Mr Phillips is the third potential saviour to emerge within the last two weeks. First a local businessman, Michael Anderson, was said to be interested in buying the club for £200,000. Then Mr Moore announced that he would put money into the club if his bankers, Barclays, waived part of the £730,000 they were said to be owed.

## Walsall promise to keep their own ground

Jack Harris, Walsall's new chairman, has promised to keep the club on its own ground, sharing with neighbours Birmingham City. Supporters of the third division club expressed fears about a move to St Andrews when the former chairman, Ken Williams, took over the first division club on Monday.

Harris, managing director of a Shropshire engineering company, said there was no question of a sharing scheme but he added: "I would like to think that if there is any chance of some co-operation between the two clubs we can exploit it."

"I am thinking particularly of the playing side. When we had severe injury problems a few weeks ago it would have helped considerably if we could have borrowed somebody."

Wheeldon, meanwhile, has appointed a right-hand man - also from the board at Walsall.

Wiseman, a member of the Football League's management committee, said he was happy to stand down after 10 years for the sake of the club.

Wheeldon is keeping quiet about his plans for the club's future and the future of its manager, Ron

Saunders, who has a three-year roll over contract which would cost more than £100,000 to pay off.

Wheeldon has promised a statement on Saturday.

© Oxford United are increasing prices by up to a third for the Milk Cup quarter-final with Portsmouth to keep out hooligans.

The January 15 match is all-ticket, and terrace prices are going up from £4 to £5. Seats which normally cost £7.50, will be £10. The increases are intended to deter Portsmouth's notorious supporters from travelling without tickets.

Oxford have already upset Portsmouth by allocating them only 4,000 tickets.

Portsmouth are still investigating the possibility of paying £40,000 to hire a giant video screen to show the match at Fratton Park.

© The Leeds United Board are demanding £20,000 to be paid to Elwood Road. This was made plain yesterday by Leeds chairman, Leslie Silver, following recent take-over talks.

"The club is not for sale," Silver said, who added that they were now on a sound financial footing following the sale of their ground to the city council.

Controversy broke out last October when the surface used in Frankfurt for the semi-final between West Germany and Czechoslovakia was ripped in several places during the course of the match.

© Anders Jarryd was yesterday ruled out of playing singles for Sweden in the final (Ragnar Persson).

The Swedish coach, Hans Gösens, said Jarryd was unable to train again yesterday because of a throat infection and had stayed in bed, but it was too early to rule Jarryd out of Saturday's doubles.

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More yachting, page 20

More tennis, page 20

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More tennis, page 20

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## Groin injury forces international to retire

Braden O'Callaghan, the Oldham Athletic defender, has retired at 30. He has not played since the opening day of the season when he suffered a groin strain, and was yesterday advised by doctors to quit football.

O'Callaghan, a former Republic of Ireland international, has played only 10 games for Oldham since his £35,000 signing from Stoke City in February. "It is the first real injury of his career and it is a tragic blow," Oldham's manager, Joe Royle, said.

"He has been seen by two specialists and one of them told him it was the worst injury of its type he had seen."

© Peter Reid, Everton's England midfielder player, who has made only four appearances this season because of an achilles tendon problem, has suffered a further setback. Reid, who has just returned to training following an operation, has now turned an ankle in training.

The ankle has been immobilized, and he is to see a specialist.

© Chris Hutchings, the Brighton defender, faces his second lengthy absence of the season after sustaining a painful knock on the knee at Grimsby on Saturday. He is to have an exploratory operation and it is feared the examination may reveal cartilage damage. Hutchings missed 11 matches after breaking his arm, also against Grimsby, in the opening game of the season, and now may be sidelined for at least a month.

Brighton are striving to get their captain, Wilson, and a defender, Young, fit for Friday's visit to Bradford. Wilson has an ankle injury, and Young a badly swollen knee. Wilson and Fashanu were booked at Grimsby but Brighton's manager, Chris Cattlin, will not be fining them under his new code of conduct. He said: "Their tackles were healthy and competitive."

© The Stoke City forward, Ian Painter, who has been out of action for three months, learned yesterday that he would not need surgery to cure his hamstring injury. Painter, who was given the all-clear by a specialist, is now ready to return to the first team, after limping off against Millwall in September.

© Coventry City's fitness and leisure centre, the £1 million idea of their former chairman Jimmy Hill which became a white elephant, is to be sold this week for half the price. The Duke of Edinburgh opened the centre, called the Sky Blue Connection five years ago but it has lost money, ever since.

A leading British leisure sports and entertainment magazine expected to take over the building on the outskirts of Coventry in a £500,000 deal. The training facilities under the new deal will still be available to the Coventry footballers.

© Chester City, the fourth division leaders, have come up with a unique seasonal gift for their manager Harry McNally and the players. They are all to be made shareholders of the club. "It is a thank you for their efforts so far and will also make them feel a part of everything that goes on at the club," the chairman, Eric Barnes, said.

© Oldham Athletic have made David Fairclough available for transfer after he complained of "limited first-team chances". The former Liverpool forward, aged 28 who joined Oldham at the start of the season after playing for Servette of Geneva, has made only three full appearances. He has been substituted 14 times.

© Chester's FA Cup third round tie at Shrewsbury on January 4 will be all-ticket, with a 16,000 limit. The London club have been allocated 1,000 stand seats.

© Kuwait imports referees have been signed in an attempt to beat a three-week-old strike by match officials which has paralysed the domestic league, a Kuwait Football Association (KFA) official said yesterday.

Torquay profit

Torquay, bottom of the Football League, announced an annual profit of £77,000 yesterday.

Yesterday's results

FIRST DIVISION: Queens Park Rangers 0, Aston Villa 1.

THIRD DIVISION: Bournemouth 1, Rotherham 2.

FOURTH DIVISION: Port Vale 1, Torquay 0.

SCREEN SPORT SUPER CUP: Southampton 1, Tottenham 3.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Crystal Palace 2, Tottenham 4; Fulham 0, Chelsea 3; Norwich 2, Gillingham 1.

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Nottingham 38, RAF 25.

SCHOOLS: South of Scotland 0, Australia 57.



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Southampton have written







# Lendl considers switch to become US citizen

By Rex Bellamy  
Tennis Correspondent

Ivan Lendl, the best player of 1985, may apply for United States citizenship. This would be no surprise. But we can dismiss rumours that Lendl may eventually play Davis Cup tennis for the United States.

Lendl, aged 25, lives in Connecticut and as a United States citizen with 36 consecutive months of residence behind him he would be eligible to represent the United States - but for the fact that he has already played for Czechoslovakia. That rules him out, unless the USTA successfully appeals to the International Tennis Federation on the grounds that Lendl is a suitable case for waiving the qualifying conditions. That is what happened when Colin Dowdswell, who had previously played for what was then Rhodesia, was granted permission to represent Britain. Dowdswell, however, was born in Britain and had obviously burnt his bridges with the new regime in Zimbabwe. His case was stronger than Lendl's.

There have been many cases of players becoming citizens of another country before playing Davis Cup tennis. But it is rare for a player to represent more than one country. One example is Martina Navratilova, who represented her native Czechoslovakia in the Federation Cup competition and has since played for the United States in the same event. But the qualification rules have since been tightened up.

Lendl's uncertain future,

## TENNIS



Lendl: US resident

nevertheless, raises the remote possibility that one day the American team could consist of Lendl and two former South Africans who are now US citizens, Kevin Curren and John Kriek. But it is highly improbable that the USTA would seriously contemplate such an embarrassing confession of the weakness of their native resources.

Tom Gorman has been appointed to succeed Arthur Ashe as captain of the United States Davis Cup team. The United States have not won the trophy since 1982 and last year's final, in which Sweden gained a winning lead of the cost of only one set, was embarrassing. At times the Americans seemed inadequately prepared for the job they had to do on court, inadequately disciplined, and equally inadequate in their off-court ambassadorial role.

Gorman is a former Davis Cup player who has since captained the United States women's team Federation Cup and Wightman Cup competitions. He has always been renowned as an exemplary sportsman and an infectious cheerleader with a bubbling personality. There is a lot of Irish in him. During the early Seventies the preparations for United States Davis Cup ties were enlivened by cabaret-type evening parties organized by Gorman and Erik Van Dillen. United States ties tended to be more fun than most and they had a successful team, too.

Despite some bad protest results for Highland Fling from the first race of the Southern Cross Cup on Monday, the British team performed well in the light winds of the second race yesterday to lift themselves from third to second place.

The three British yachts, Citeline, Panda and Highland Fling, finished third, fourth and seventh on handicap and were the top scoring team of the day. They are now 154 points behind the New Zealand B team.

Highland Fling, helmed by Harold Cudmore, was involved in three protests after the first race of the series and suffered 60 per cent place penalties, dropping her from twelfth to thirteenth place. In yesterday's race, which was nearly an hour late starting because of three general recalls and a postponement to reset the course, all three British yachts were well placed throughout, playing the north-east breeze well, and sailing in company with the larger yachts in the fleet.

The fleet start a 180 nautical miles race today which takes them around two islands off the New South Wales coast, before finishing in Sydney.

Mad Max, won yesterday's race, as he did the first in the series. Maroon II, for the Australian team, led throughout and was second on handicap.

This year's celebrities will be Cliff Richard, the musician Hank Marvin, disc jockey Mike Read and pop singer Shakin' Stevens. The professionals are Virginia Wade, Anna Hobbs, Sara Gomer, and Annabel Croft.

## YACHTING

### Uplift for Britain in spite of penalties

From John Robertson  
Sydney

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### Kookaburra bigger and better

From Keith Wheatley  
Perth

Kookaburra II, the second new 12-metre for the Task Force 87 syndicate, was launched here yesterday. By mid-afternoon she was sailing against her older sister, Kookaburra I.

Her skipper, Iain Murray, is co-designer of both, with the Perth naval architect, John Swartwell. The yachts, both painted gold, appear virtually identical, but there are differences.

"Freeboard and length are about the same but she's a bigger boat," Murray said. "There's more volume at the stern because tank tests said it was the way to go."

The new Kookaburra is better constructed and engineered than the first boat. The hull's mechanical systems are 1,000 per cent better," Murray said.

The Kookaburras will have trials against one another for the six weeks between now and the world 12-metre championships, for which both are entered.

Carman did not challenge the wisdom of withdrawal of the police car in hot pursuit, once it had been attacked but criticized the withdrawal of all other cars.

The respondent that it was reasonable in the circumstances. Police cars were a target and it would be folly to expose them to harm.

The chief constable was justified in adopting these measures. Figures for the crime of crime showed that in relation to offences of burglary and violence the level of crime was being kept at a level below other areas in Liverpool. The applicant was not entitled to a special policy in respect of the police's duty.

Mr Justice Nolan agreed.

Mr E. J. Rush, Solicitor, for Edward Lloyd & Co. Liverpool; Weightmans, Liverpool.

whether action by that authority was so unfair as to amount to an abuse of power, see *HTV Ltd v Price Commission* [1976] 1 WLR 170, approved by the House of Lords in *R v Inland Revenue Commissioners, Ex parte Preston* (The Times May 1, 1985) [1985] 2 WLR 836.

Mr Justice Glidewell in *R v Haringey London Borough Council, Ex parte Sai Shan Lee* (unreported, July 25, 1984), had drawn no distinction between those students who had been told directly, and those told indirectly, by an authority official that they were ineligible for an award.

In both cases there had clearly been unfair and irrational refusals to exercise discretion.

In the case of Khatibabadi there was an additional factor. Regulation 11(2)(d) required the authority to have regard to the circumstances of each particular case, but the authority in effect required that those circumstances be exceptional, finding that the applicant's case was not exceptional, in that she had not been personally discouraged from making an application. In the case of Ghiesbreght it was difficult to see what more he could have done.

Both applications would be allowed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Mr M. E. J. Rush, Solicitor; Mr G. C. Child, Lewis.

### Sell-out event to boost coaching

Saturday's pro-celebrity tournament at the 4,000-seat Brighton Centre is a sell-out and will raise at least £30,000 for Cliff Richard's "Search for a Star" scheme.

The event, which is staged for the third year, will also be sponsored by American Express who will contribute an additional £15,000. The money will go to the Lawn Tennis Association training department and will provide special coaching for promising children aged between eight and 13.

This year's celebrities will be Cliff Richard, the musician Hank Marvin, disc jockey Mike Read and pop singer Shakin' Stevens. The professionals are Virginia Wade, Anna Hobbs, Sara Gomer, and Annabel Croft.

## HOCKEY

### Carnegie are impressive

By Joyce Whitehead

The physical education colleges three-day women's tournament at Bedford College of Higher Education is producing some good hockey by the leading teams - Loughborough, Carnegie, IM March (Liverpool) and Bedford - when their matches are played on the hard court pitch. Sheffield, Dumfries, Chelsea, Bedford Second XI and Dartford at times are struggling in indifferent games.

Carnegie invited for the first time, were an unknown quantity, but were soon recognized as a well drilled team. They are as yet unbeaten, having played three matches. Loughborough, the unbeaten newcomers last year, are also strong, but Dumfries held them to a 0-0 draw, which has rather spoilt their record.

RESULTS: Monday, Dumfries 4, Dartford 1; Tuesday, Bedford 2, IM March 2; Sheffield 1, Loughborough 2; Bedford 1, Sheffield 1; Bedford Second XI 0, Dumfries 1; Wednesday, Carnegie 4, Chelsea 1; Bedford 0, Dartford 0; Yesterday, Bedford 0, Chelsea 0; Loughborough 3 IM March 0.

### Last 32 emerge

Slough winners four times during the last seven years, are not among the 32 teams who have survived the early rounds of the Royal Bank national indoor club championship (Sydney Friskin writes).

Carnegie invited for the first time, were an unknown quantity, but were soon recognized as a well drilled team. They are as yet unbeaten, having played three matches. Loughborough, the unbeaten newcomers last year, are also strong, but Dumfries held them to a 0-0 draw, which has rather spoilt their record.

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## Law Report December 18 1985

### Toxteth policing policy challenge fails

Regina v Oxford, Ex parte Levey  
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Nolan

[Judgment delivered December 17]  
Toxteth was not a "no-go" area but was being more intensively policed than ever before. The chief constable's policy for the Liverpool of concentrating on foot patrols and making the presence of police vehicles subject to strict control was not unreasonable or wrong but had been successful in keeping the level of crime at or below the level in other areas.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held dismissing an application for judicial review by Lawrence Bernard Levey of the application by Kenneth Gordon Oxford, Chief Constable of the Metropolitan Borough of Merseyside of the policing policy applicable to the geographical area of Toxteth.

Following the 1981 riots the chief constable established the "Toxteth section". The decision was made in the light of recommendations made by Lord Scarman in his report *The Brixton Disorders*. The policing of the area was based entirely on foot patrols. Police vehicles were precluded from patrolling the area under normal circumstances.

Approval had to be obtained by police vehicles before entering Toxteth section in pursuit of suspect vehicles. There was therefore provision for the pursuit of vehicles subject to close monitoring and supervision.

On August 21, 1985 the applicant had valuable property stolen from his motor car by masked robbers. Their car was seen being driven on the footpath by the driver of a police vehicle who followed in hot pursuit. He knew of the policing policy of Toxteth. As he turned a corner he

encountered a crowd of about 50 youths who were completely blocking the road and both pavements.

The youths were both black and white and armed with missiles for throwing. The car was stoned.

When the officer reported the presence of the gang he was instructed to withdraw. All other police vehicles in the area were also instructed to withdraw.

Mr George Carman, QC and Mr Eric Goldrein for the applicant; Mr Michael Morland, QC and Mr Graham Morrow for the chief constable.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said the applicant had been given leave to bring an application for judicial review claiming, *inter alia*, a declaration that it was ultra vires the chief constable to declare or adopt a policy whereby the geographical area of Toxteth was deemed on some or all occasions to be a "no-go" area for the police force.

Toxteth was an area of high unemployment where street crime was relatively high. The younger people were increasingly hostile.

In all areas where riots had occurred the riots had in each case been set off by a minor incident. The riots in July 1981 were very serious. Many police officers were injured.

Following the riots it was necessary, in the opinion of the chief constable, to form a new policy for the policing of the area. Broadly speaking it was to form a special policing section for policing of the area, made in the light of the Scarman report.

The ground upon which the applicant claimed relief was that he was entitled to relief in the contents of a brief case containing valuable property stolen from his motor car by masked robbers who were immediately chased by a police car which was ordered to abandon its pursuit when it entered the "no-go" area of Toxteth.

It was said that the calling off of the chase was a direct consequence of a failure properly to police the area in accordance with the provisions of the Police Act 1964 and resulted in the applicant failing to recover his property.

The respondent contended that there was no such thing as a "no-go" area in Liverpool and that persons who challenged the policy were doing so in ignorance of the Scarman recommendations and had not fully understood the recommendations or had not understood the policy.

It was further contended that the applicant had no interest in enabling him to bring relief under Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. The applicant did not live in Toxteth, had no business there, nor did the incident take place there and he was in no different position to any other member of the public.

That assertion by the chief constable was well founded and indisputably right. The applicant had not fully understood the recommendations or had not understood the policy.

Accordingly, there was no need to go further in consideration of the declaration sought other than to say that the applicant was not entitled to it.

The applicant's broad contention that the chief constable's policy was contrary to the Scarman report and in derogation of his duty to keep the peace was not made out. It showed a

lack of appreciation of what a so-called "no-go" area was.

In contrast, since 1981 Toxteth had been more intensively policed than ever before. The chief constable's policy, as the statistics showed, had been effective in crime prevention and in keeping the peace in a notoriously sensitive area. It was not right to say that mobile police were absent from the area. Their presence was subject to strict control.

Carman did not challenge the wisdom of withdrawal of the police car in hot pursuit, once it had been attacked but criticized the withdrawal of all other cars.

The respondent that it was reasonable in the circumstances. Police cars were a target and it would be folly to expose them to harm.

The chief constable was justified in adopting these measures. Figures for the crime of crime showed that in relation to offences of burglary and violence the level of crime was being kept at a level below other areas in Liverpool. The applicant was not entitled to a special policy in respect of the police's duty.

Mr Justice Nolan agreed.

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Mr Justice Glidewell in *R v Haringey London Borough Council, Ex parte Sai Shan Lee* (unreported, July 25, 1984), had drawn no distinction between those students who had been told directly, and those told indirectly, by an authority official that they were ineligible for an award.

In both cases there had clearly been unfair and irrational refusals to exercise discretion.

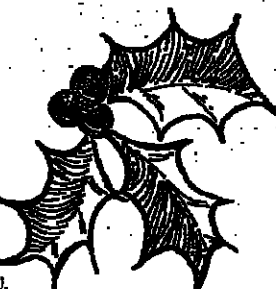
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Both applications would be allowed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Mr M. E. J. Rush, Solicitor; Mr G. C. Child, Lewis.

## MacBlain Nash wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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# Ugandans hope deal will end decade of terror

By Richard Dowden

The Uganda Government and the rebel National Resistance Army yesterday signed an agreement which they hope will end the four-year bush war and the bloodshed and terror which has racked the country for more than 10 years.

The power-sharing deal, which has taken four months to reach, was signed in Nairobi by General Tito Okello, the head of state, and Mr Yoweri Museveni, head of the NRA, in the presence of President Moi of Kenya, who had chaired the meetings and who said: "This is the beginning of a new era of peace, stability and tranquillity for Uganda."

In Kampala, however, sources said people were generally pleased the agreement had been signed, but there was little celebration and a good deal of scepticism about whether it would hold.

It has not yet been published, but it is understood it provides for: O A ceasefire to be implemented within 48 hours of signing.

O A military Council made up of General Okello as chairman and head of state, seven government, seven NRA representatives and five from smaller former guerrilla groups.

O A new national army of 8,480 men, comprising 3,700 from the present Uganda Army, 3,580 from the NRA and 1,200 from other guerrilla groups.

O Kampala to be demilitarized; all troops to be moved out of the city until it can be policed by both sides.

O All decrees and appointments made since the July coup to be reviewed and a national

conference organized to prepare for an interim government and elections. The NRA's administration in the west is to be disbanded.

Although the Former Uganda National Army and National Resistance Front groups, both of which have many former Amin soldiers in their ranks, have seats on the Military Council, it appears that the agreement will squeeze out most of the former Amin soldiers, who have been much in evidence recently, a factor which has jeopardised the peace agreement.

## ON PAGE FIVE

### Long haul to peace Foreign aid expected Photograph

There will be no immunity clause for those soldiers accused of crimes against civilians in the recent war. The NRA was anxious that no one should be immune from prosecution, even though several top army officers could be accused.

Britain, Kenya, Tanzania and Canada have offered forms of military assistance, but last night the Foreign Office said there was no question of Britain performing any role beyond training.

The ceasefire will mean that aid will begin to flow to Uganda again. Most donors had stopped giving aid until an agreement was signed.

The agreement will also open up roads to the west and south of the country and the route to Rwanda, which had been closed for nearly two months because of the fighting.

# Pit pay talks in deadlock

Continued from page 1

Speaking after the abortive pay talks at coal board headquarters in London, Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, said the pension measure would mean a reduction in benefits received by most pitmen.

Even in the moderate UDM areas of Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire, "thousands" of miners had either taken strike action in the past 18 months or been unable to work

because of disruption by collieries.

Mr Scargill said that acceptance of the pensions element by the breakaway union "astonishing".

The pay increase on offer would raise adult miners' weekly grade rates by £5.50 a week, which together with a increase in the rate for achieving "standard performance" would take the total payment to £6.80 a shift or £34 a week.

# Victim of the Manhattan mobsters



Thomas Bilotti, bodyguard to murdered Mafia leader "Big Paul" Castellano, lies in a Manhattan street beside the car he was driving

Continued from page 1

Delacroix, his underboss, a powerful figure in his own right who apparently helped to keep order. But Mr Delacroix died, aged 71, this month, creating a vacuum at the top. Mr Castellano did not go to the funeral. A detective said he did not go because "there were too many rats in the family".

A close associate of Mr Delacroix was John Gotti, aged 45, who has a pleasant home in Queens, New York. With Castellano, Bilotti and Delacroix all dead, he is seen as a strong contender for the leadership.

He was described in newspapers here yesterday as a hard-working family man with a frowned-on weakness for gambling, and as "a tough on a bitch". He has served a prison term for an underworld contract murder.

The killing of Paul Castellano removed another of the old-style Mafia godfathers whose crime roots extend to the 1920s and 1930s. He was already experienced when the present structure of the New York Mafia was organized by Salvatore Maranzano, a Sicilian, in 1931. The idea was to carve the city into crime districts to prevent wasteful overlapping and bloody rivalry.

But Maranzano, first to call himself *Capo di Tutti Capitani* - boss of bosses - was murdered by rivals shortly afterwards, and the Mafia story has since frequently been punctuated with bloodshed as gangsters have fought for power, settled their scores and silenced informers.

The most sensational of New York killings include: Albert Anastasia murdered in a barber's chair in New York in 1957; Joe Colombo shot in 1971 who died after seven years in a coma; Joe Gallo killed while celebrating his birthday in a restaurant in 1972, and Carmine Galante murdered in a restaurant in 1979.

Mr Castellano, who had only one conviction, for robbery, generally kept out of trouble. He was one of the youngest men to attend the notorious "summit" of gangsters in 1957 and refused to answer police questions about it.

He was a butcher by trade and invested in a number of meat businesses. Much of the money from organized crime is diverted to legitimate businesses.

Mr Castellano was described by the head of the Organized Crime Strike Force yesterday as "unquestionably the boss of the largest and most powerful crime family in America".

He was appearing in one of the three Mafia trials in New York, an unprecedented triple round-up and trial of alleged gangsters.

One of 10 men on trial for conspiracy to murder and racketeering, he was also one of the five godfathers charged with being part of a commission, the ruling body of the New York underworld.

'Big Paul' Castellano: godfather since 1976.

# Slanging match mars debate on bank controls

Continued from page 1

"Of course I do not suggest that the malpractices of which we read each day are typical of all, or even most, city firms. The malpractices are, however, both numerous and growing in number."

"And the city itself - motivated by a misplaced loyalty to those firms which bring it into disrepute - continues to deny the need for a radical solution."

"Unless a thorough-going remedy is applied, the City itself will be the loser."

In Tokyo, New York and Frankfurt, they must rejoice every time a new scandal is unearthed, and every time that the city responds to legitimate concern about its probity with either arrogance or complacency."

"Since the city probably cannot, and certainly will not, put its own house in order, the Government should provide an adequate framework for reform, and an acceptable system of regulation."

"It's reluctance to accept that

obligation is the result of an increasingly close connection between the Tories and the City - the Conservative Party is now the party of the City of London."

"They are bound to it with bonds just as tight as those that bind labour to the trade unions."

"The City certainly makes a larger financial contribution to the Treasury than the unions make to labour."

"The City's view of society - huge rewards for the most successful minority and the neglect of social obligation, which is the product of the unregulated market - is the new Tory view of society."

"Cleaning-up the City has become a test of the Government's own probity, which, on present evidence, it seems unlikely to fail."

Mr Hattersley said there had been two crime waves during the past six years.

"One consisted of burglaries, assaults and vandalism. The second, and bigger, crime wave, in terms of the amount of money illegally taken from its rightful owners, is taking place in the City."

# Commons 'misled' on bid for Westland

Continued from page 1

Black Hawk two years ago, after a licence agreement had been made with Shorts of Belfast. Mr Brittan told the Commons on Monday that the Shorts arrangement was entirely dependent upon the possibility of Black Hawk being bought by the Ministry. "That has not happened, and therefore that arrangement does not stand."

The Times' sources said yesterday that that statement was misleading. Shorts still held the licence agreement. The Department of Trade and Industry said last night that the minister's words were based on the information available.

A senior source close to Shorts said yesterday that the company had a memorandum of understanding with Shorts to assemble, and make parts, for Black Hawk helicopters ordered by the Ministry of Defence. The understanding still existed, and the company had not heard from Shorts about any change in the status of the agreement, though there was provision for it to be terminated at 60 days notice.

He agreed that as the Ministry of Defence had not ordered any Black Hawks the agreement had never come into operational effect.

There was also the strongest possible criticism of Mr Brittan's "misleading" statement that the Italian collaboration in the Westland as part of the European helicopter programme, would "continue to co-operate with Westland on the programme."

Although Mr Brittan referred to things said by Signor Raffaele Teti, president of Agusta, "in the heat of the moment", he did not mention that Signor Teti had told ministers that agreements reached with Westland "would seriously suffer by the participation in Westland of new European third parties."

Departmental sources last night dismissed that charge, saying the MPs were quite capable of reading European attacks in Saturday's *Financial Times*.

The Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday that the choice was down to Westland; its board, its shareholders, its bankers and its auditors.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of the Royal Agricultural Society, England, chairs the first Council meeting of Celebration of British Food and Farming 1989, 35 Belgrave Square, SW1, 3.25.

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend the London Fire Brigade's annual Christmas service at the Central Hall, Westminster, 7.

The Princess of Wales presents the Children of Courage Awards, Westminster Abbey, 10.55.

Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, attends their annual carol concert, Royal Albert Hall, 6.50.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester attends the Gardeners' Company Tradescent lunch, Inholders' Hall, EC4, 12.40.

### New exhibition

Frontiers of Chaos: mathematical and computer art. Fifth Hall, Sheffield University; daily 10 to 6 (ends Dec 21).

Exhibitions in progress  
Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh: The Gallery, Finkle St, Kaarabrough, Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5 (ends Dec 24).

Silver Palente Art exhibition: Derby Museums and Galleries, 125th annual international exhibition: Museum and Art Gallery, Castle St, Carlisle; Mon to Sat 9 to 5 (ends Jan 4).

Photography and illustration on the theme of "Energy" with the finalists in the Benson and Hedges Photo Awards 1985: Collins Gallery, Richmond St, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4 (ends Dec 21).

Photography and illustration on the theme of "Energy" with the finalists in the Benson and Hedges Photo Awards 1985: Collins Gallery, Richmond St, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4 (ends Dec 21).

Work by David Cernick: Darlington Art Gallery, Crown St; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 3.30 (ends Dec 21).

A selection from the fourth Smith biennial: Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends Jan 11).

Alan Peters: Furniture Maker: Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Clarence St; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Feb 8).

The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau: The Mappin Art Gallery, Westfield Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends Jan 5).

The Old and the New - a selection of the most historic and modern works from the permanent collection: Tower Art Gallery, High Street, Old Town, Eastbourne; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 19).

Armstrong Art Club Members' work: Armstrong County Museum, The Mall East, Mon to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5 (ends Dec 21).

Treasures of Fyvie: Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 11 1986).

29 etchings by Edward Manet: Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 3).

Last chance to see Expression of Tranquillity - work by Verina Warren, Jon Middlemiss, Helen Williams, Jane Hamlyn and Sarah Burnett: New Tree Gallery, the St. Edmunds, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; 11 to 5.30.

Christmas music  
Carol concert by the Halifax Choral Society and the Black Dyke Mills Band; Civic Theatre, Halifax, 7.30.

Carols for choir and audience by the Bampton Singers, St Mary's Church, Black Bonville, Oxon 7.30.

Christmas music and carols by the Northern Sinfonia Chorus; Park Hotel, Tynesmouth, 7.30.

Carols and Christmas music by the Bristol Cathedral Special Choir and Orchestra; Bristol Cathedral, 7.30.

Christmas concert with carols by the Morrison Oboe Choir, and the Bristol Easton Salvation Army Band with David Hall, Cardiff, 7.

Bishop Luffa School carol service, Chichester Cathedral, 7.30.

Rochester City Grammar School carol service; Rochester Cathedral, 7.30.

Carols and Christmas music by the Penarth Chamber Choir, Grandborough Hall, Warwick, 8.

General  
Book Fair, Fisher Hall, Cambridge, 10 to 5.

Caring for Carers  
Caring for Carers: A Directory of Initiatives, published by Age Concern, describes over 100 imaginative schemes to help and support people who care for dependent relatives at home. It is available on receipt of an A4 size envelope from Age Concern, England, 60 Piccadilly Rd, Middlesbrough, Cumbria, 31L.

Hypothermia: The Facts, also published by Age Concern, is available free from the same address with a large SAE.

Parliament today  
Commons (2.30): Motion for Christmas adjournment. Proceedings on Consolidated Fund Bill.

Lords (2.30): Debates on community education and on aid to African agriculture.

### Books - bizarre titles

The Literary Editor's selection of bizarre titles of the year:  
A Stainless Steel Flat is Born, by Harry Harrison (Sphere, £1.95)

Arab Political Harms, by Khalid Khayri (Oxford, £3.95)

Easy to Make Aids for Elderly People, by Don Gaston (Souvenir, £2.95)

Postcards of the Falkland Islands, a Catalogue: 1900-1950, by Henry and Frances Haydon (Picador, £14.95)

The British Tapes, by Janet Street-Porter and Tim Street-Porter (Angus & Robertson, £7.95)

The Handed Flat Guide, by Guy Lyon Playfair (Harrap, £10.95)

The Needle on Full, by Sandra Fiddler, by Caroline Forbes (Onlywomen Press, £3.95)

The Policemen's Lot, Antique British Police Equipment including Truncheons and Truncheon Cases, by John Fiddler, by Sandra Fiddler, by Caroline Forbes (Onlywomen Press, £3.95)

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾, by Sue Townsend (Methuen, £9.95)

Roads  
London and South-east: Vauxhall Cross: Traffic lights out of order for rest of week causing delays. Creek Rd, SE10, closed eastbound from junction with Greenwich Church St local diversions in operation.

Wandsworth High Street: Waterworks: expect hold-up, no left turn into Garret St.

The Midlands: M5: Contraflow between junctions 2 (A41) 23 Dudley and Birmingham W) and 3 (A46) 16 Leicester and Birmingham W). Temporary lights (24 hours) for the Warwick to Birmingham road at Hutton (3 miles N of Warwick); delays. A5: Work continues between Whittham and Golewry in Shropshire and in Staffordshire at Stratford between Galleys and Pickmere.

Wales and West: M4: Lane restrictions and contraflow between junctions 22 and 24 (Chepstow to Newport). Gwent, A465: Temporary lights at Taff Fawr Viaduct, Merthyr, and A465: Temporary lights (24 hours) for the next two weeks on the Abernethy to Brecon road at Crickhowell.

The North: M6: Work on central reservation between junctions 32 and 33, Lancs. M63/M62/M602 - Eccles interchange, Greater Manchester: Lane restrictions N of Barton Bridge in preparation for widening of M63 two lane section. A56: Contraflow on Manchester Rd, Altrincham.

Scotland: M8: Inside lane closures between junctions 36 (Hillington) and 39 (Paisley). A62: Lane closure four miles N of Spean Bridge: single lane traffic; temporary lights (24 hours). A87: Bridge damage at Dornie: single lane traffic.

Information supplied by the AA

Portfolio  
Portfolio - how to play  
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio

And those together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.  
If you total matches the published weekly designs: if you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim  
Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-52272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Division. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.  
You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can do on your behalf, but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.  
No prize money is payable for failure to claim the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.  
The above restrictions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.  
Some Times Portfolio cards include minor errors in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.  
The winning of Rules 2 and 3 has been excluded from the prize money for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

# Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure will clear SE England, but a further trough will move into W areas later in the day.

## Gam to midnight

London, SE, central S, E England, East Angles, E Midlands, Cheshire, Lancs, Merseyside, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Sunny intervals, isolated showers; wind NW moderate; max temp 10C (49F).

SW, NW, England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Sunny intervals, isolated showers; wind NW moderate; max temp 10C (49F).

Barriers, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Sunny intervals, isolated showers; wind NW fresh; max temp 10C (49F).

SW, NW, Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, isolated showers; wind NW fresh; max temp 10C (49F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Unsettled with showers or longer outbreaks of rain in most areas, but also some sunny intervals; near normal temperatures.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind W or NW, fresh or strong; rain then showers; visibility moderate with fog patches, becoming poor near English Channel (E Wind W or NW, fresh, occasionally strong; visibility moderate with fog patches at first, becoming good; sea moderate). S Georgia's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W moderate or fresh, locally strong in North Irish Sea; showers; visibility mainly good; sea slight or moderate.

Lighting-up time  
London 4.22 pm to 7.33 am  
Edinburgh 4.39 pm to 7.42 am  
Belfast 4.51 pm to 7.48 am  
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.48 am

Anniversaries  
Births: Sir Joseph Thomson, physicist, Nobel laureate, 1906.  
Deaths: 1856: Francis Thompson, poet, author of *The Hound of Heaven*, Preston, 1859; Paul Klee, painter of abstracts, Münden, Switzerland, 1879.

Deaths: Antonio Stradivari, violin maker, Cremona (I), 1727; Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, biologist, Paris, 1829; Sir John William Alcock, aviator, Rouen, 1919; Robert Tyne (Bobby) Jones, amateur golfer, Atlanta, Georgia, 1971.

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Deaths: 18